KOZUE AMANO Presents

AKARI 2

KOZUE AMANO

A.D. 2301 The voyage from Neo-VENEZIA

ADV MANGA

Graphic Novel/Manga
Adventure
MAA/002
USA $9.99

RATED ALL

AKARI MIZUNASHI

has made her home on the planet Aqua, in the charming little town of Neo-Venezia. She is determined to become an undine and as her training continues, she finds herself in the middle of her first Neo-Venezian winter! Playing with snowbugs and going to hot springs with her friends, Akari is embracing her new life amidst the changing seasons, but nothing can compare to an encounter with a mysterious group of creatures. They will take Akari on an adventure of unseen places, but they won't have to travel far!

ADV MANGA™

www.adv-manga.com

ISBN 1-4139-0071-2

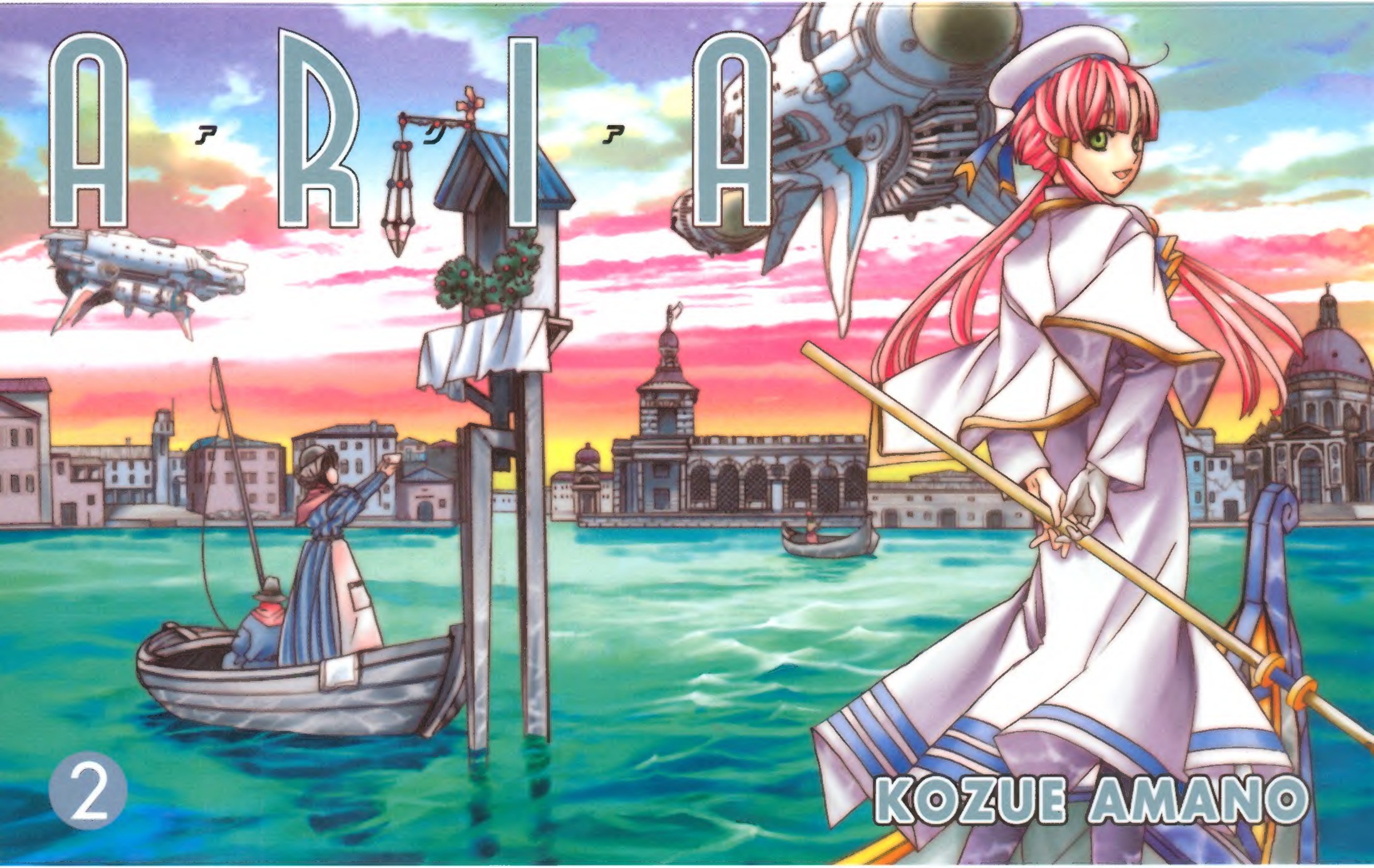
9 781413 900712 50999

7 27277 00718 7 00999

KOZUE AMANO Presents.

A.D.2301 The voyage from Neo-VENEZIA.

A-RI-A



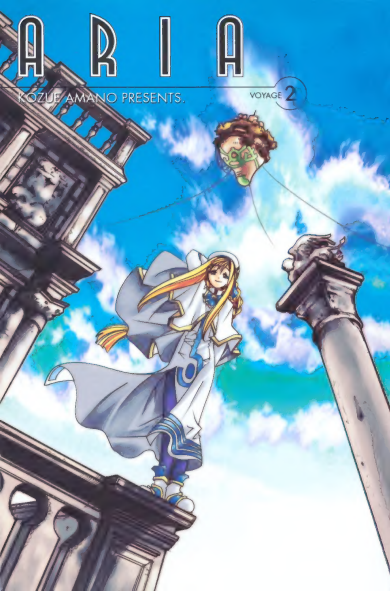
2

KOZUE AMANO

ARIA

KOZUE AMANO PRESENTS.

VOYAGE 2



CONTENTS

ARIA VOYAGE.2

Navigation 06
Mr. Snow Bug ——— 03

Navigation 07
Utopia ——— 37

Special Navigation
A Day in the Life of President Aria ——— 71

Navigation 08
Voices of the Stars ——— 77

Navigation 09
Auguri Buon Anno ——— 113

Navigation 10
Carnival ——— 147

Navigation06
MR. SNOWBUG

HAAAAHHH.

HOW ARE YOU DOING?

IT WAS SO COLD THIS MORNING THAT IT WOKE ME UP.

ぶるっ

SHIVER

...

WOW, LOOK AT ALL THE SNOW. IT'S SO WHITE!

SHIVER

SHIVER

THP ぺた
THP ぺた
THP ぺた

SMOOSH むとっ

NYU.

I GUESS IT'S TIME TO BUY WARMER PAJAMAS.

BWEH えっぷ

BEFORE I'D EVEN REALIZED IT.

CHIRP CHIRP

TWEET TWEET

WINTER HAD COME TO NEO-VENEZIA...

THUNK

K-THUNKK

...

THUNK

K-THUNK

OH, GOOD MORNING!

GOOD MORNING, MISS ALICIA!

CLEANING OUT THE FIREPLACE. IT HAS BEEN GETTING RATHER COLD LATELY.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

...

BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP

ぺた
ぺた

YES, WE ARE.

YOU MEAN, WE'RE GOING TO USE IT?

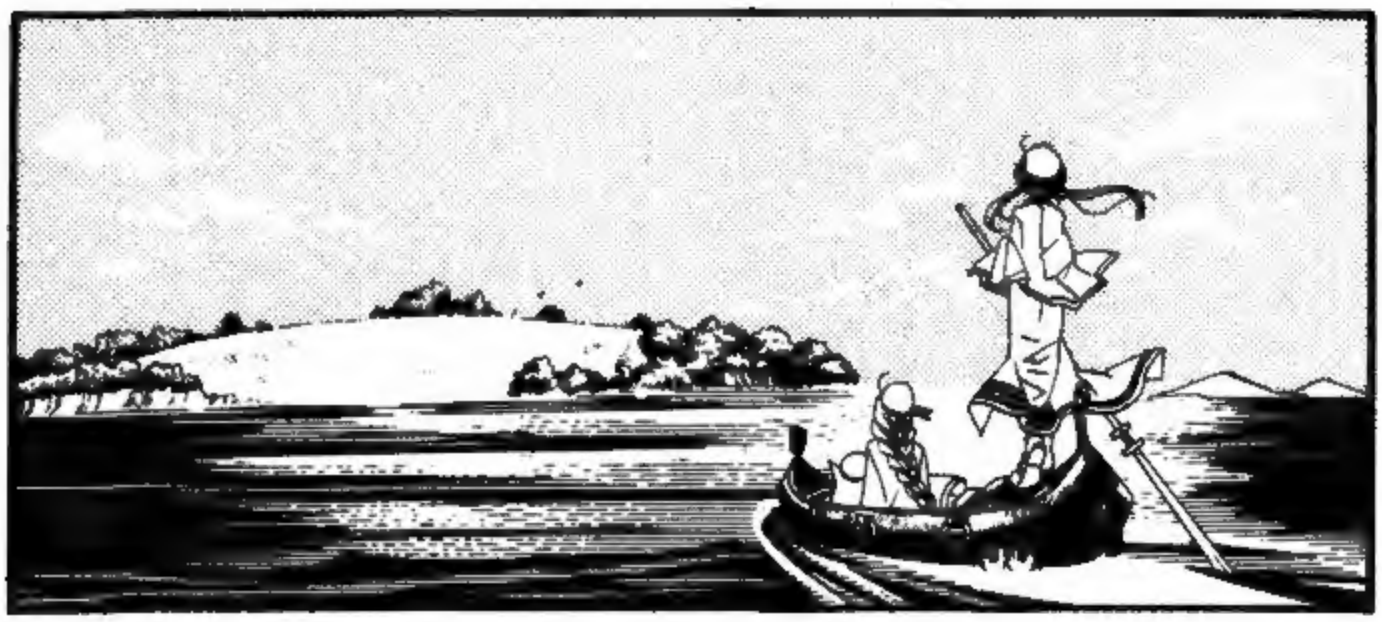
?

WOOOOW—

THE FIREPLACE!

DO YOU WANT TO GO GATHER FIREWOOD TODAY?

SURE!



I'M GONNA FIND A **TON** OF FIREWOOD!

READY! むんっ

WELL, WELL.

WOW! IT'S SO BIG AND WIDE!

A DANDELION?

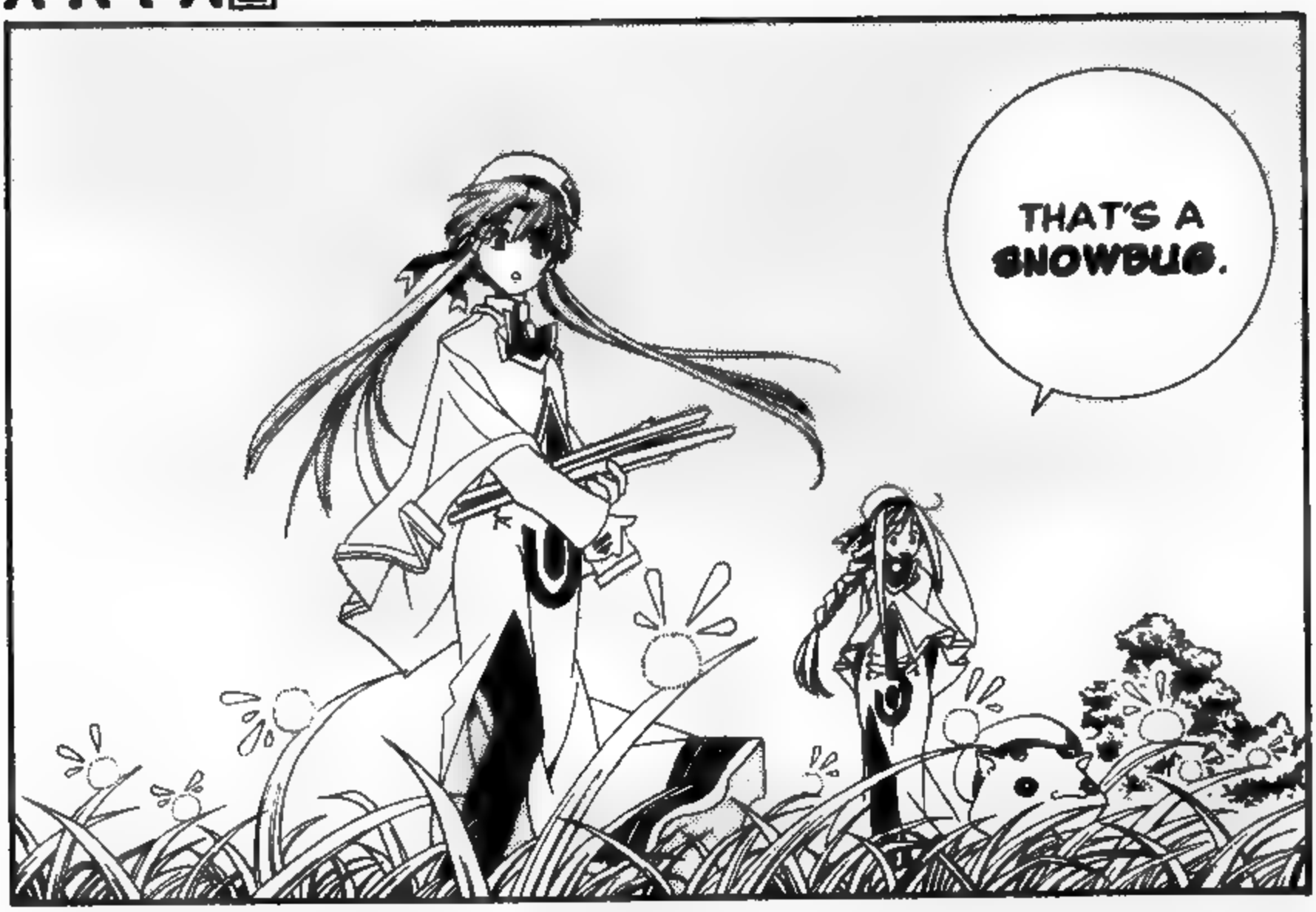
THIS IS...

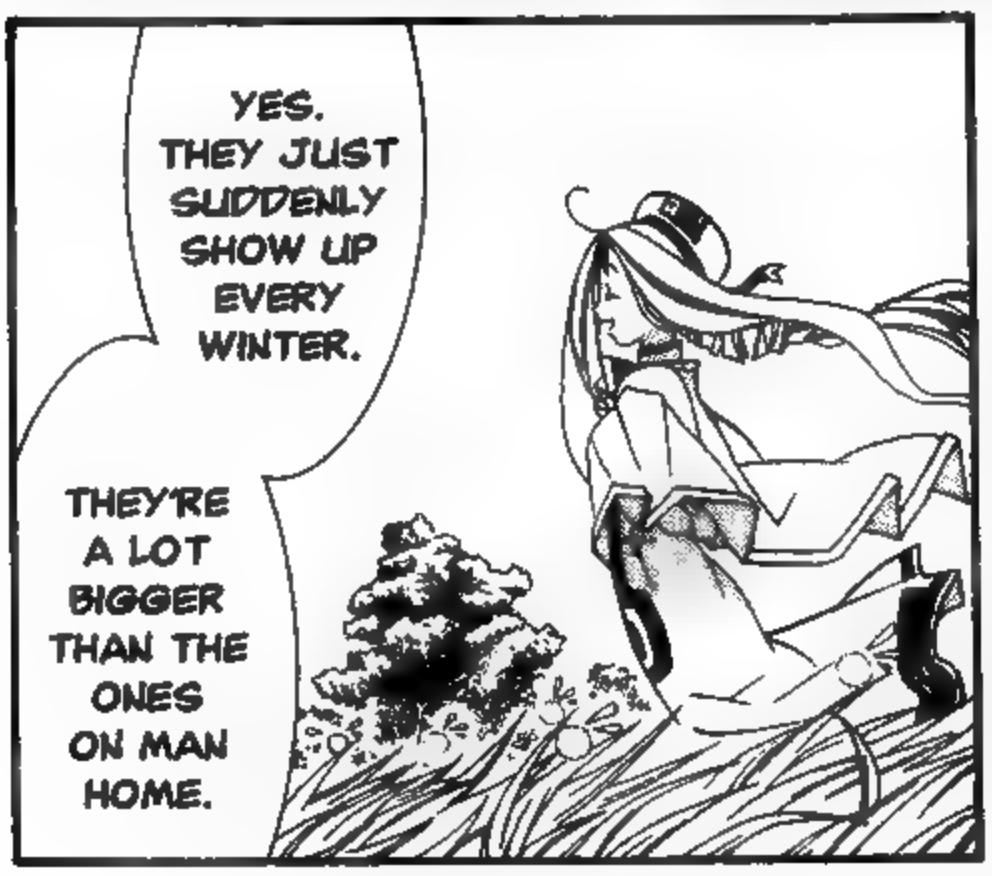
FWFF

FWFF

FWFF

PWFF


THAT'S A SNOWBUG.


YES. THEY JUST SUDDENLY SHOW UP EVERY WINTER.
THEY'RE A LOT BIGGER THAN THE ONES ON MAN HOME.

A SNOW-BUG?
IT'S SO CUTE.
FWFF
FWFF

WOW...
BUT PEOPLE JUST CALL THEM SNOWBUGS BECAUSE THEY'RE ALL WHITE AND WOOLY.
THEY'RE REALLY CALLED *PROCIPHILUS ORIENS*.

SO WINTER IS THE ONLY TIME YOU GET TO SEE THEM.

WOW!

DURING THE SPRING, THEY HIDE UNDER THE LEAVES OF THE YADAGHIMO TREE.

THEN, IN THE SUMMER, THEY MOVE TO THE ROOTS OF THE WHITE FIR.

FWFF

FWFF

FWFF

FWFF

FWFF

WELL, WELL. I THINK THEY LIKE YOU.

SOON, A WHOLE LOT OF THEM WILL FLOAT INTO TOWN.

WHY DON'T WE TAKE SOME OF THEM BACK WITH US?

POUNCE!

THE SNOW-BUGS ON AQUA SURE ARE FRIENDLY!

FWFF FWFF

SHP

OK. C'MON, MR. SNOWBUG!

OH, MY...

...

POINK

MM-HM.

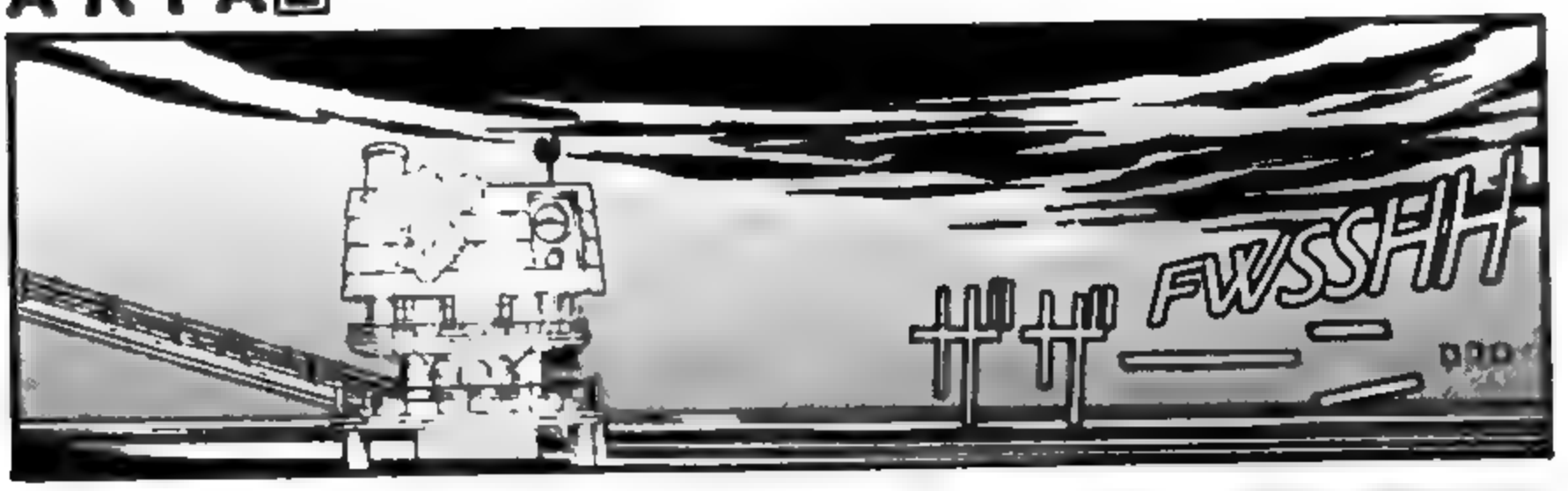
LOOK HOW MUCH FIREWOOD WE GOT!

BWOOSH

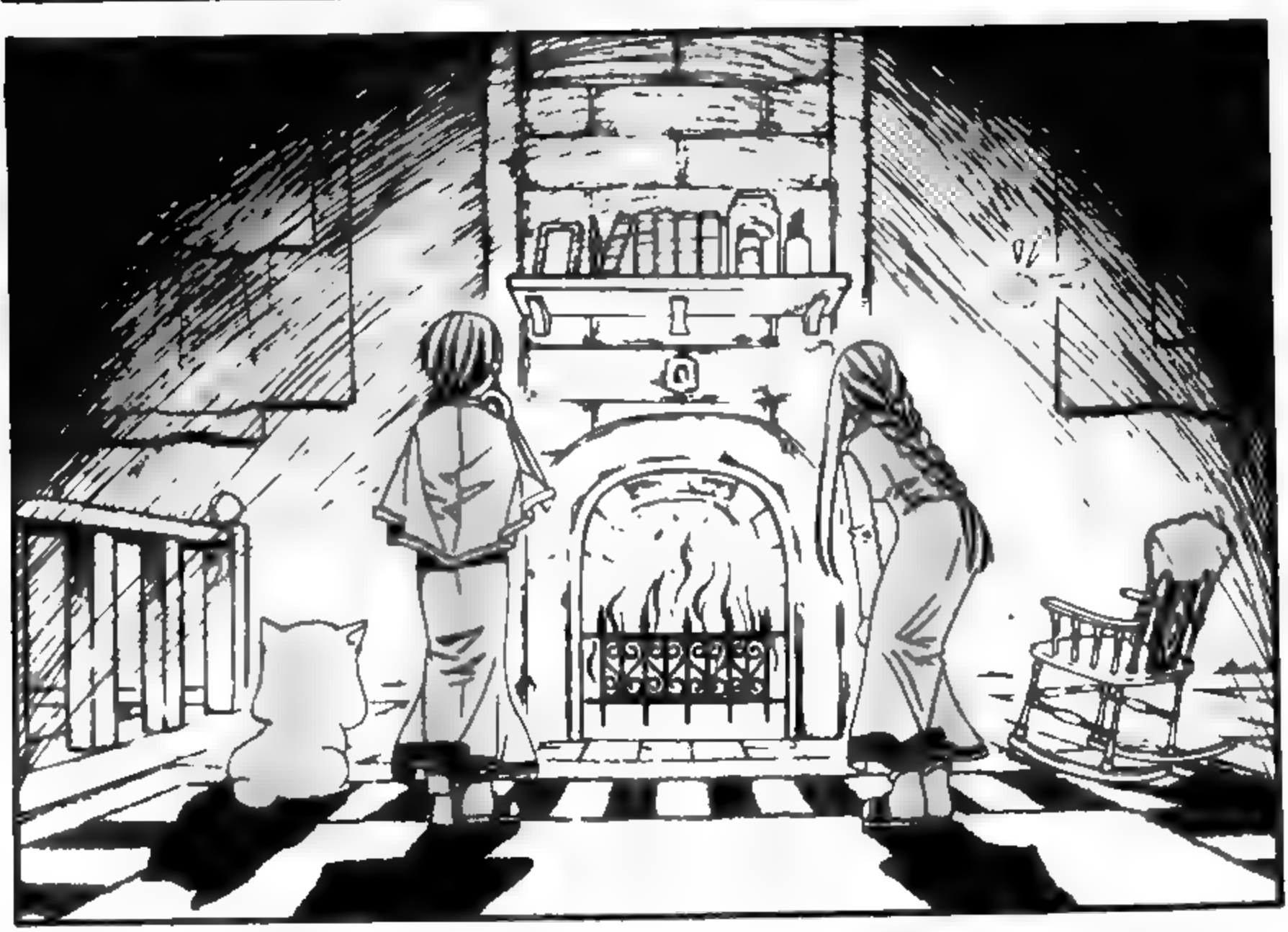
SNOWBUGS?

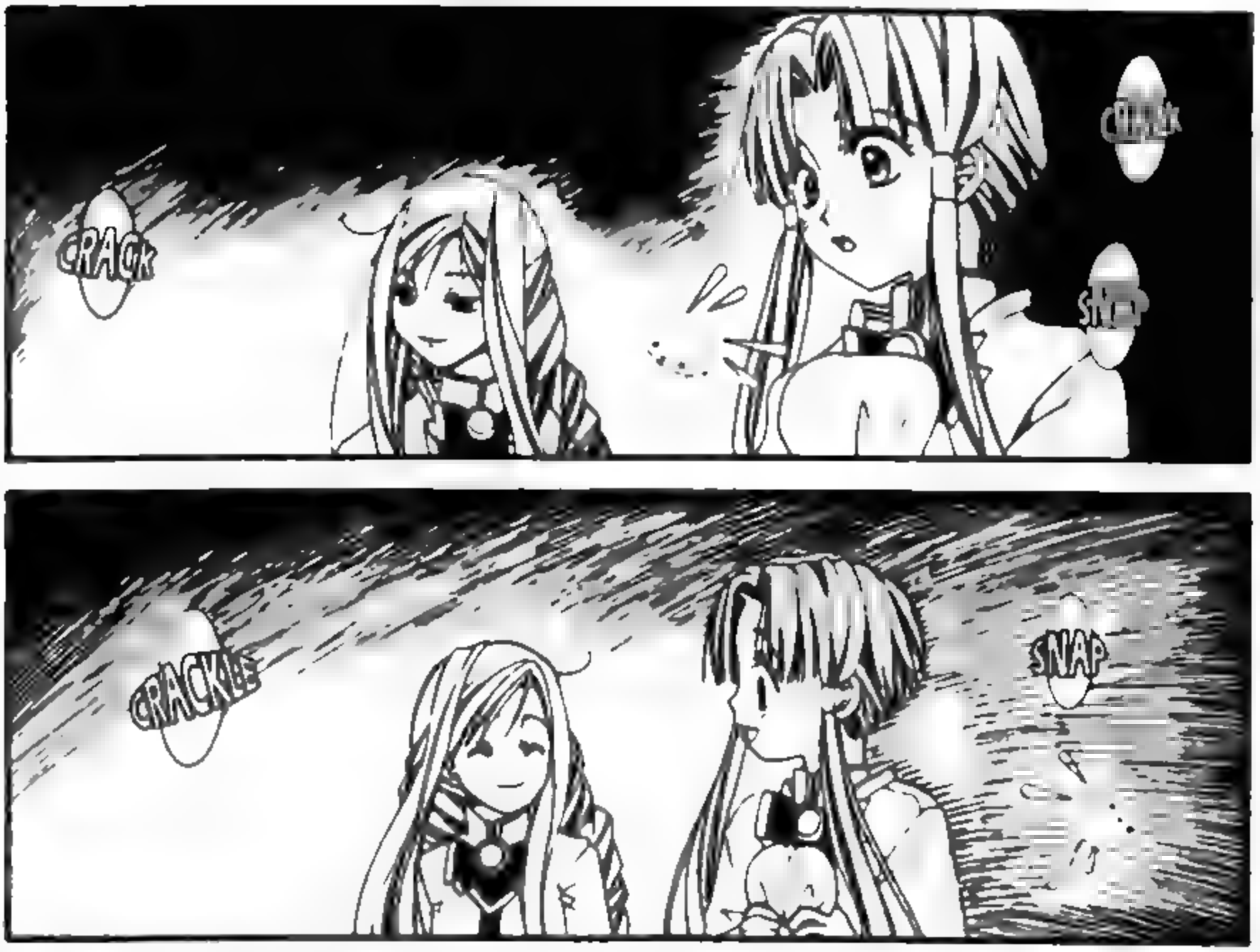
I GUESS IT REALLY IS WINTER NOW.

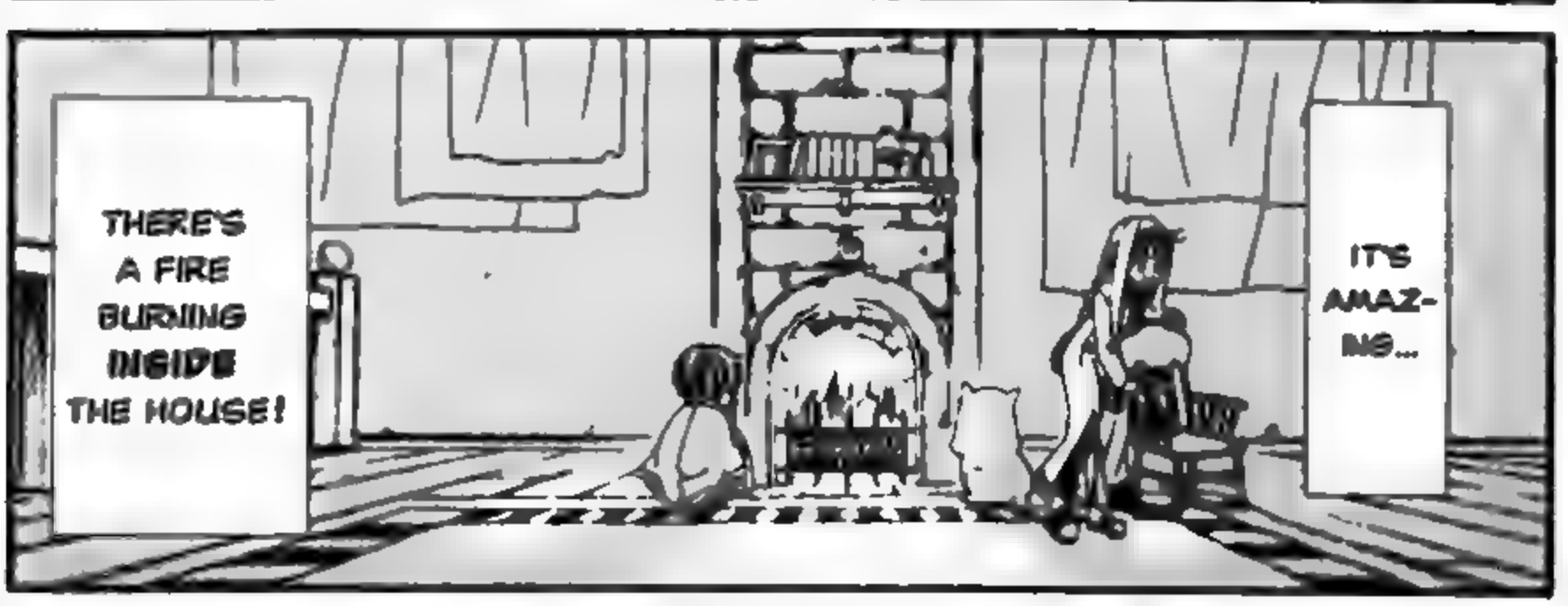
IT'S COLD.

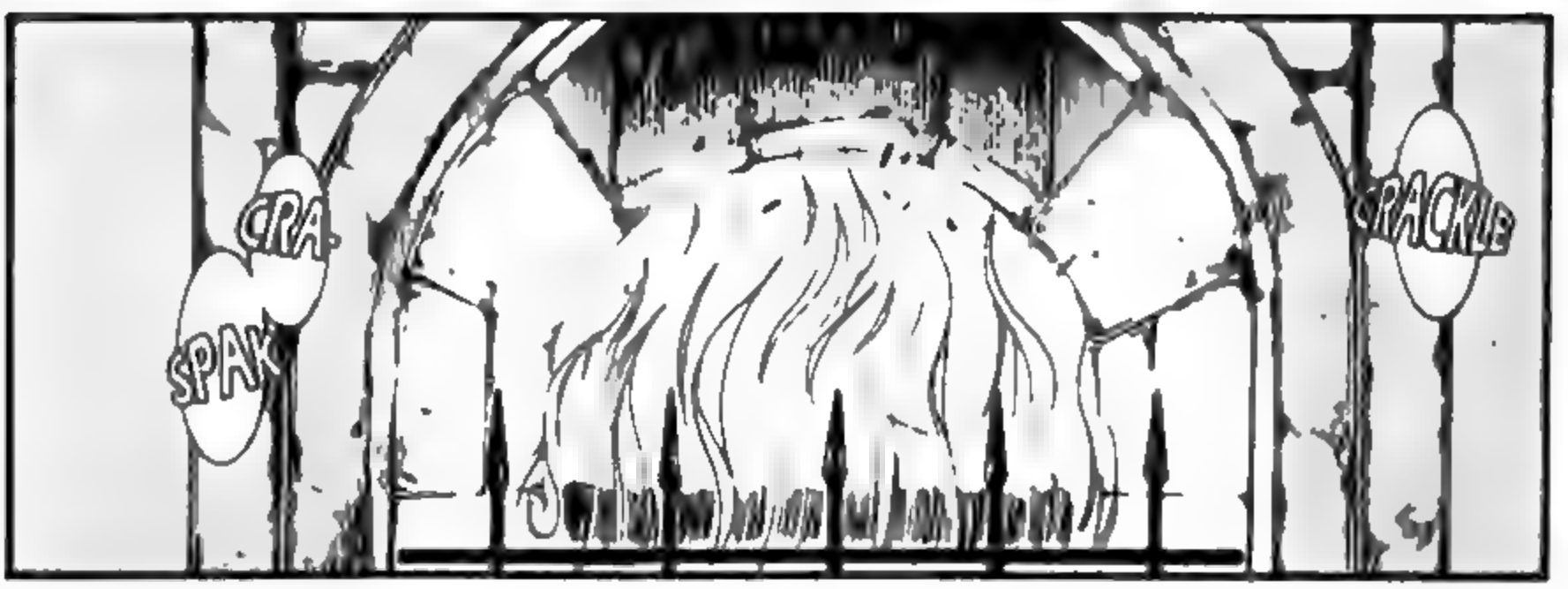

FWSSHH

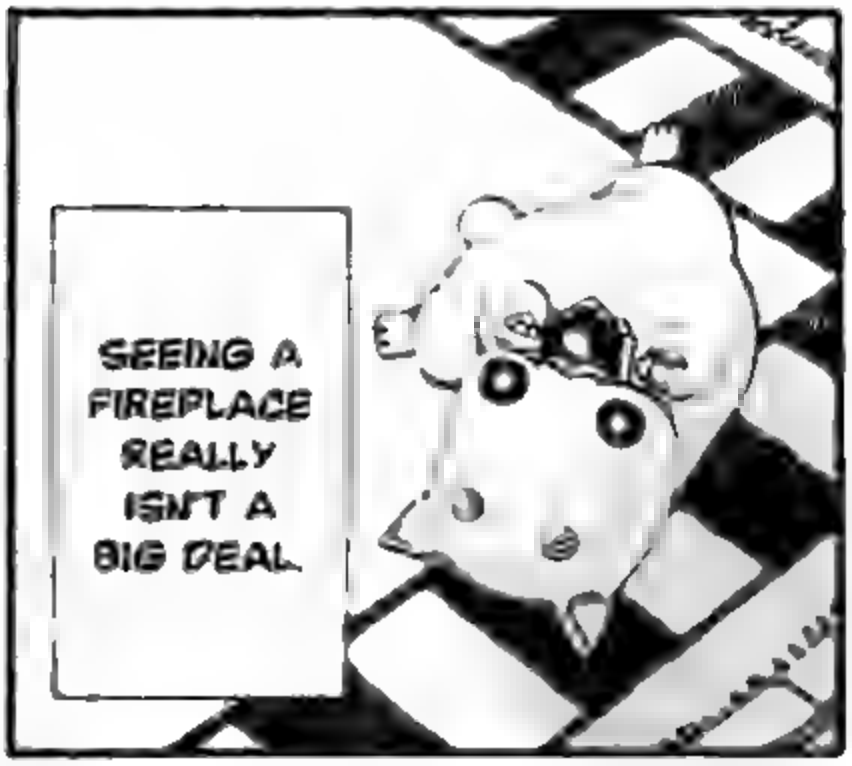
BWFF
CHAK



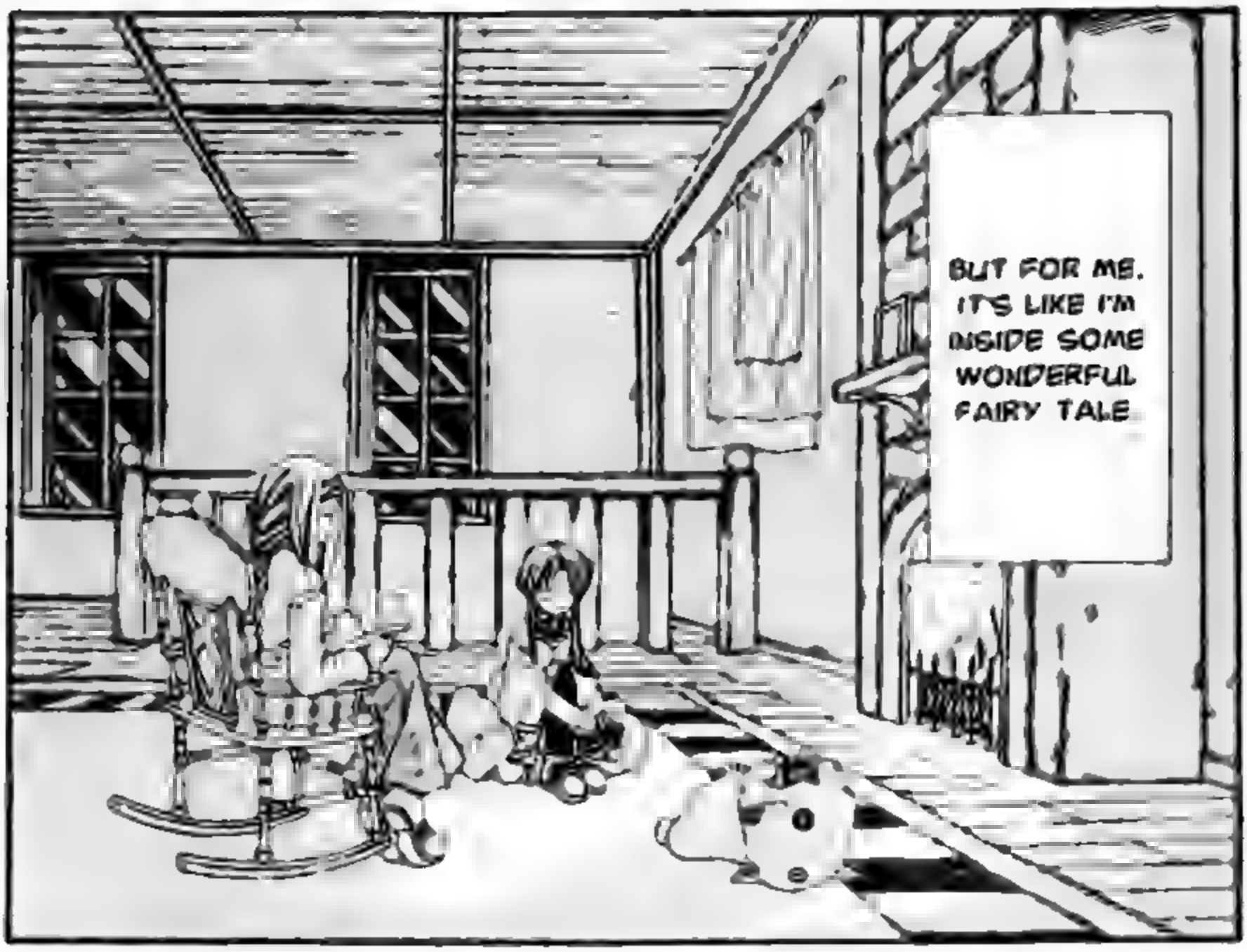

CRACK
SNAP
CRACKLE
SNAP

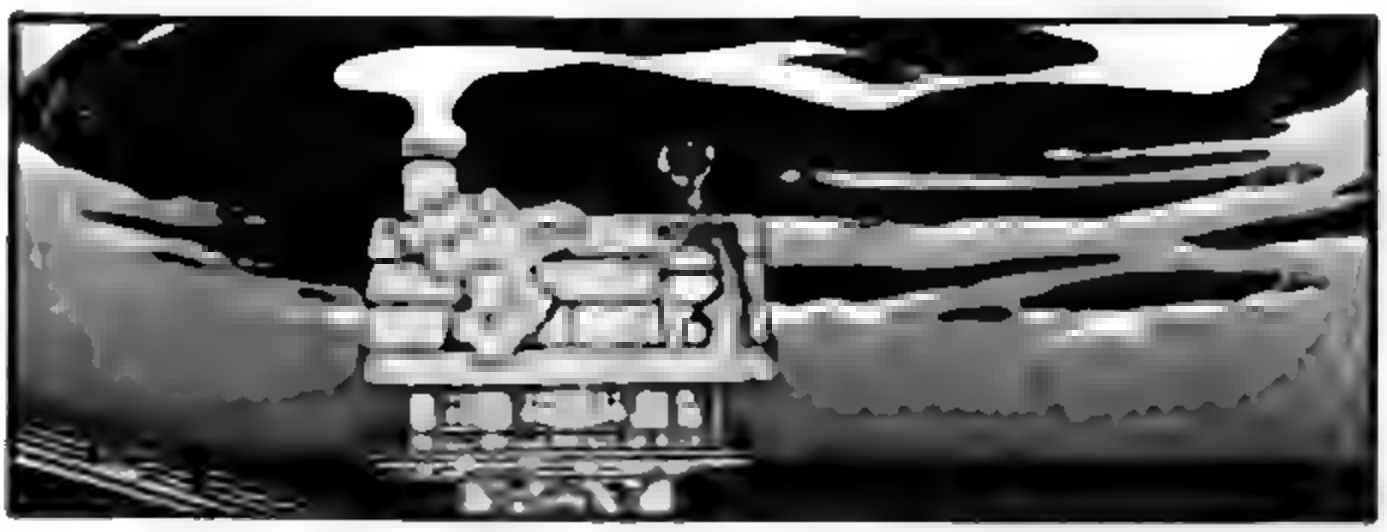

THERE'S A FIRE BURNING INSIDE THE HOUSE!
ITS AMAZ-ING...


CRA
SPAK
CRACKLE


SEEING A FIREPLACE REALLY ISN'T A BIG DEAL

I GUESS TO PEOPLE WHO'RE ALREADY USED TO IT...


BUT FOR ME. IT'S LIKE I'M INSIDE SOME WONDERFUL FAIRY TALE.



IT SURE HAS BEEN COLD LATELY.

HAHHH

ALL OVER NEO-VENEZIA NOW.

THERE ARE SNOW-BUGS...

MY OWN SNOWBUG ...

I PUT A LITTLE RIBBON ON HIM!

THAT?

AS YOU CAN SEE,

OH!

STAYS WITH ME WHEREVER I GO!

HOWDY.

HELLO, SIR!

WANT SOME?

IT'S BROWN RICE TEA.

SURE!

PAT

UH-HUH.

GOING HOME NOW?

HAD A LONG DAY?

I FEEL SO WARM NOW.

BEFORE IT GETS **TOO** COLD,

THEY ALL GO BACK TO THE YADACHIMO TREES. THAT'S WHERE THEY SPEND THE WINTER.

AHA!

CUTE, ISN'T IT?

YOUR SNOWBUG LOOKS PRETTY STYLISH TODAY.

GUESS THE SNOW-BUGS'LL BE LEAVING SOON.

SURE IS GETTIN' COLD...

UH-HUH

THAT'S RIGHT.

YOU DIDN'T KNOW?

HUH?

LEAVING?

SO WHEN THEY LEAVE, IT MEANS THE FIRST SNOW IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER.

THEY SAY THAT SNOW-BUGS CAN RECOGNIZE CHANGES IN TEMPERATURE AND DAYLIGHT HOURS.

THEY'RE GOING TO LEAVE...

SNRP

HAHA!

UH-HUH. I GUESS YOU COULD SAY THAT SNOWBUGS ARE THE **MESSENGERS** FOR THE UPCOMING SNOW.

OH!

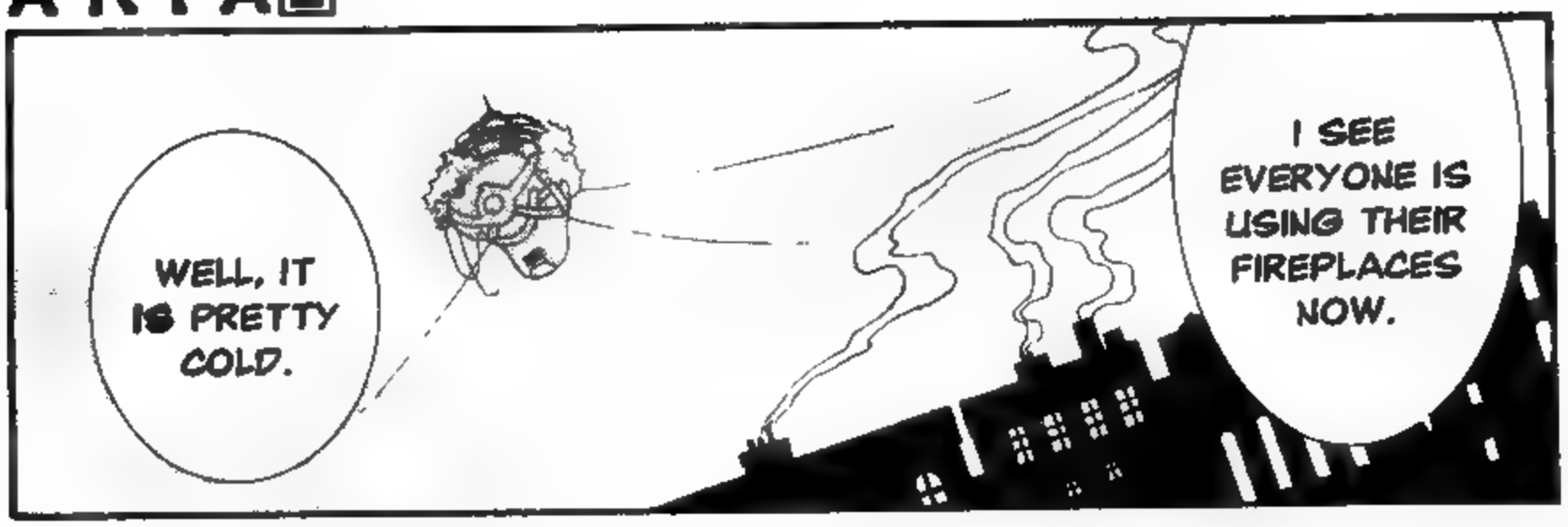
CAN'T BELIEVE I JUST SAID THAT.

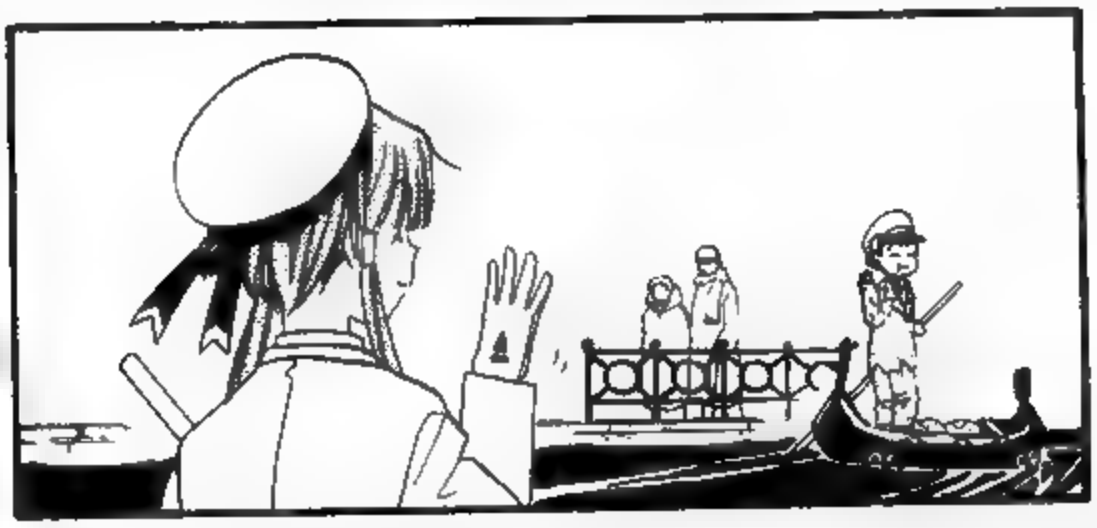
...

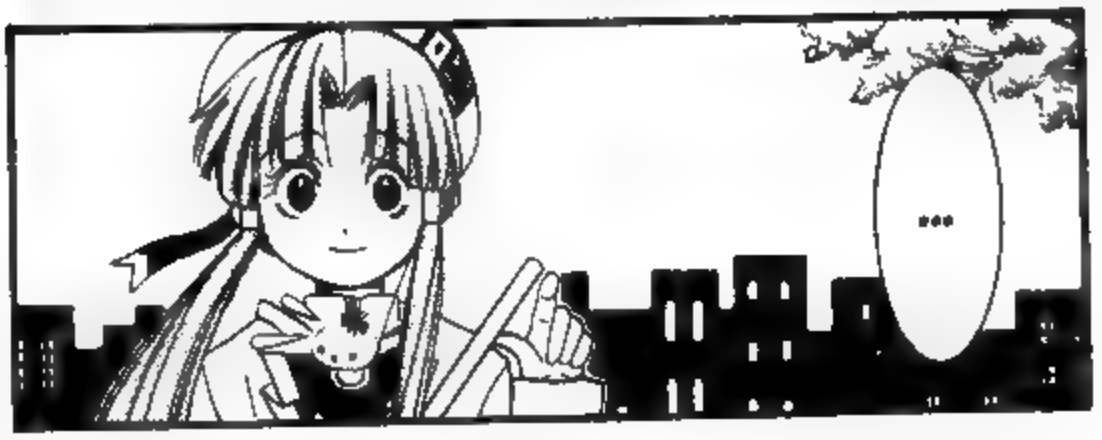
SIRRP

LOOK AT ALL THE CHIMNEYS!

WELL, NOW...


WELL, IT IS PRETTY COLD.
I SEE EVERYONE IS USING THEIR FIREPLACES NOW.




...

C'MON, LET'S HEAD BACK.
わん
FWFF

I GUESS MISS ALICIA ISN'T BACK YET.

KCHK

FW/MP ホスii

BW/MP トスii

OOOH, IT'S COLD.

THP

BRR!

I'M HOME!

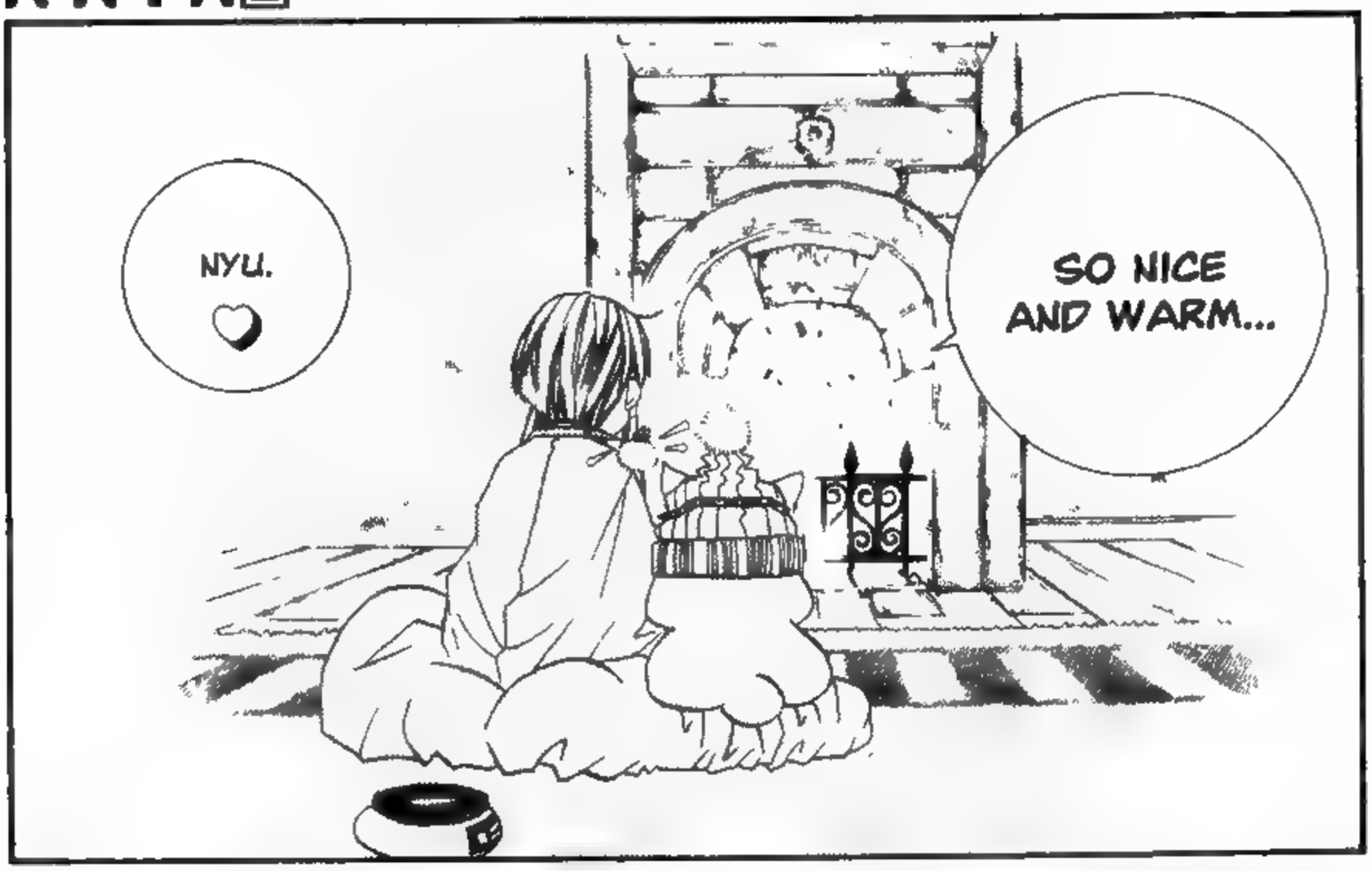
CRACK

SNUGGLE

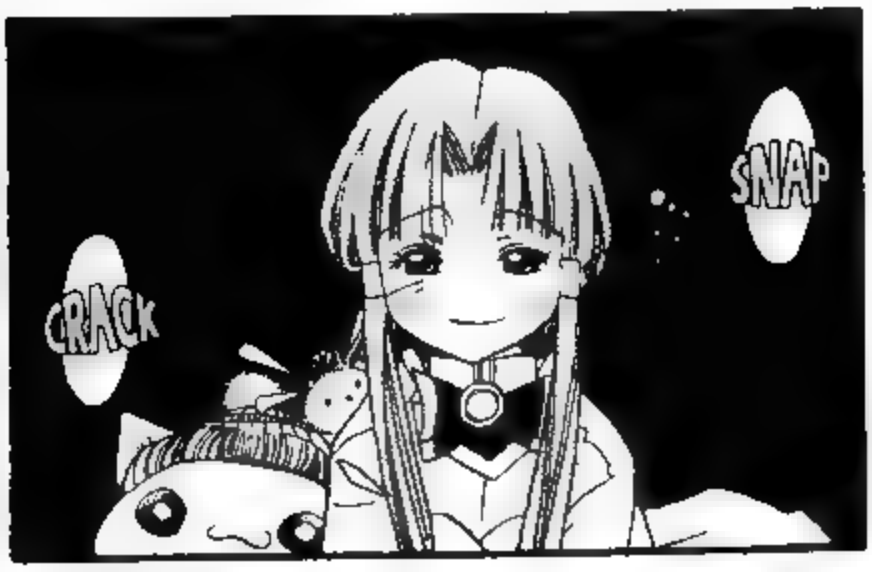
CRACKLE

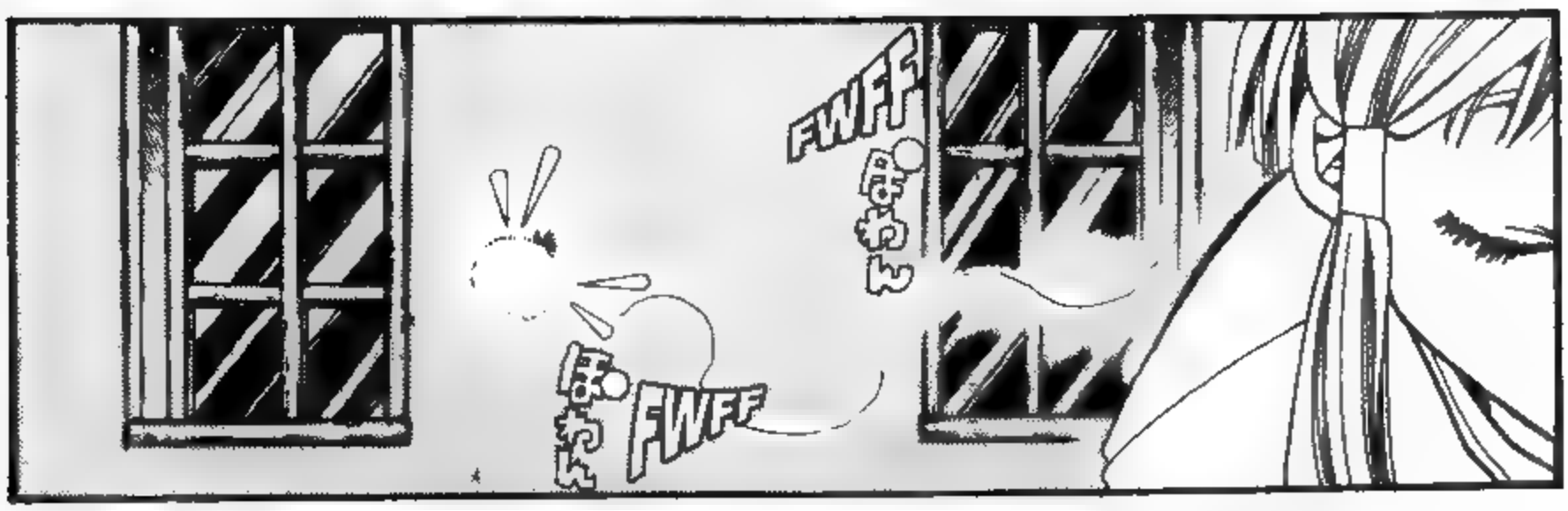
SNAP

AAAAHHH.


NYU.
SO NICE AND WARM...

SNAP
PWFF
CRACKLE


SNAP
CRACK


FWFF
FWFF

HAHHH ...

IT SURE IS COLD TONIGHT.

WELCOME BACK!

GUNYA

I'M HOME.

KCHK

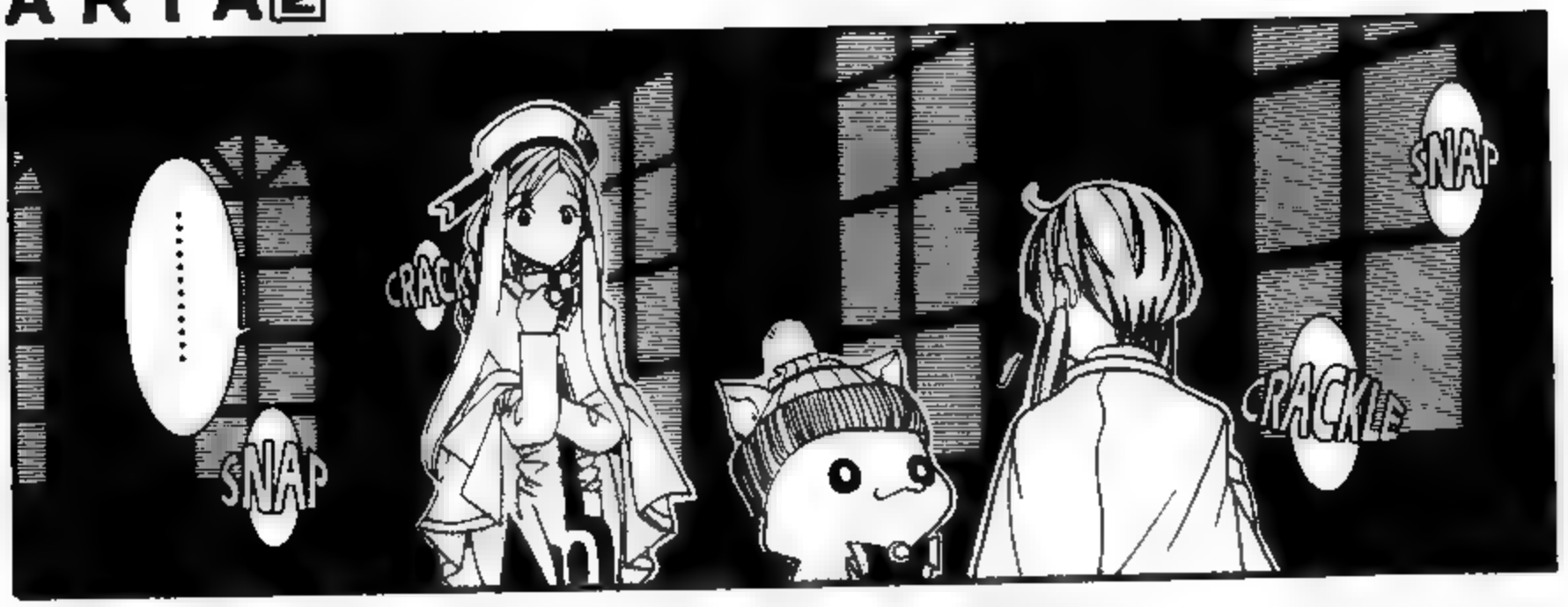
HEY, WHERE IS YOUR SNOWBUG?

!

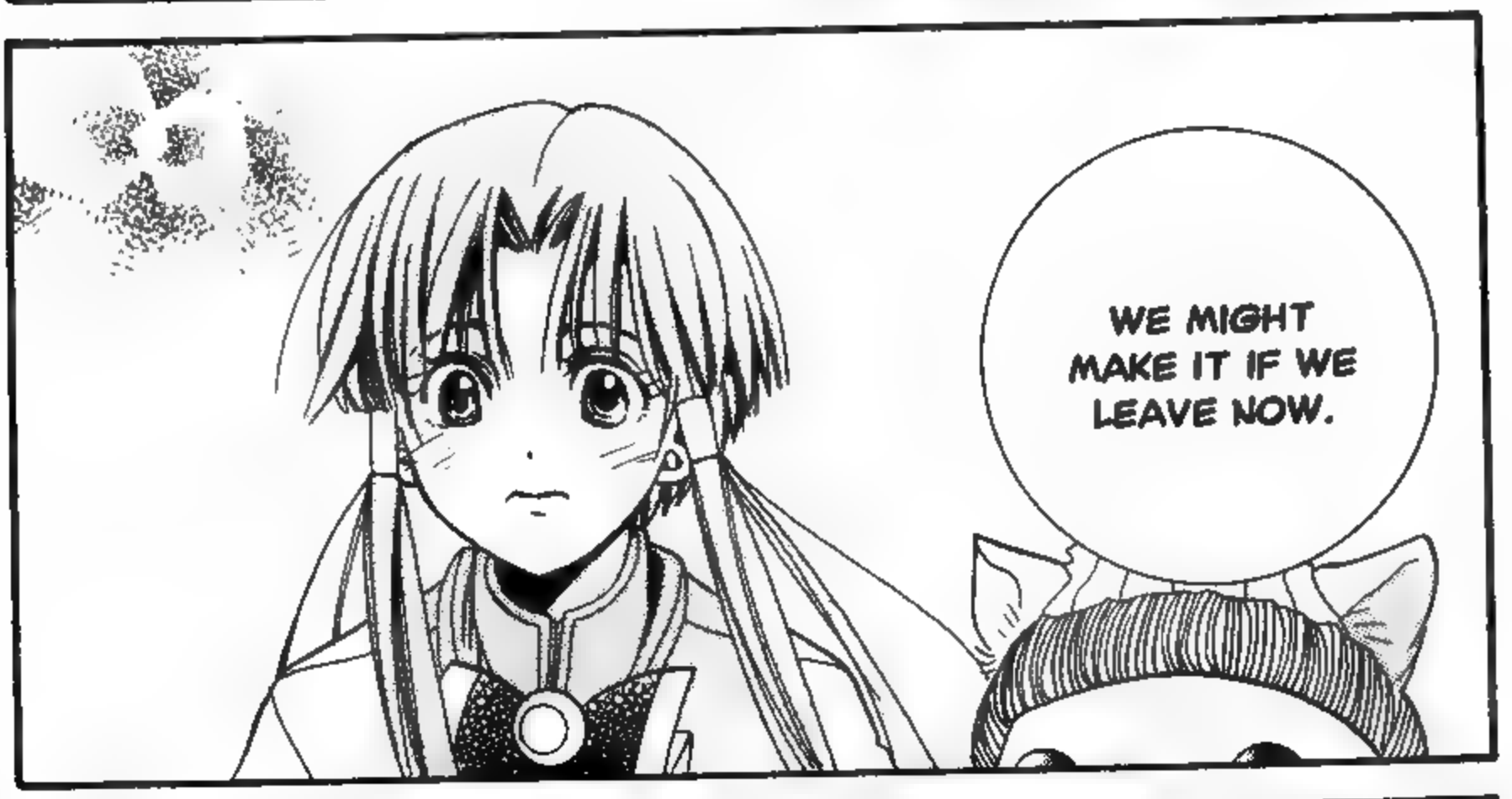
MAYBE HE LEFT ALREADY.

THAT'S STRANGE. HE WAS JUST HERE.

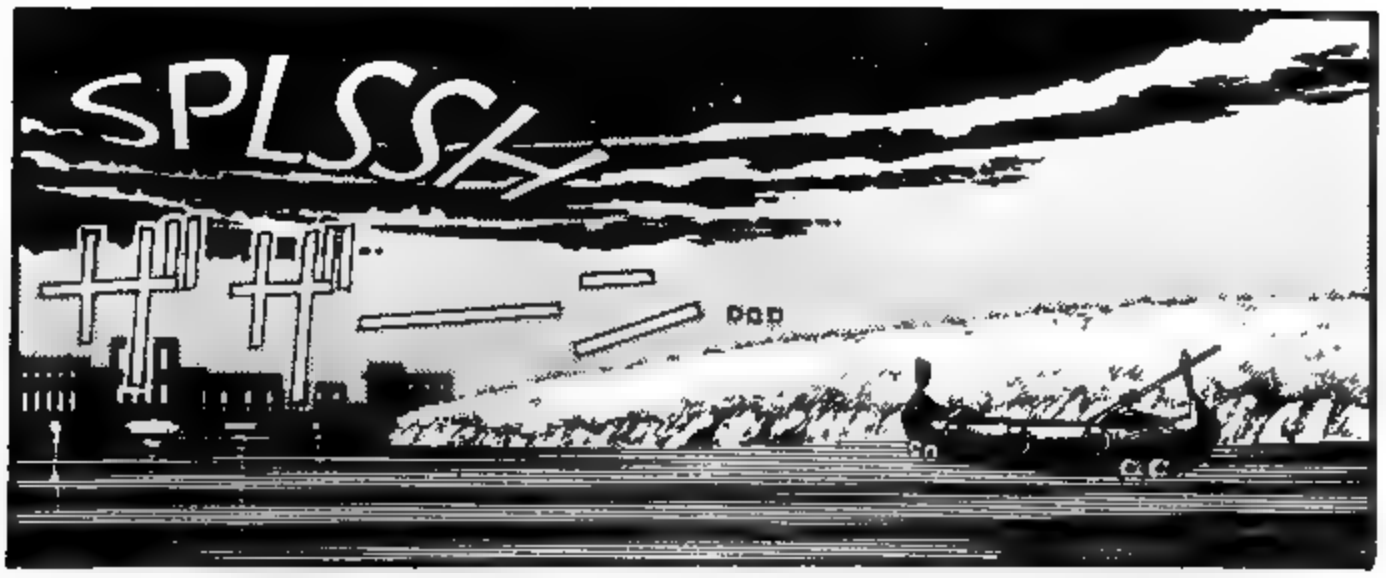
.....

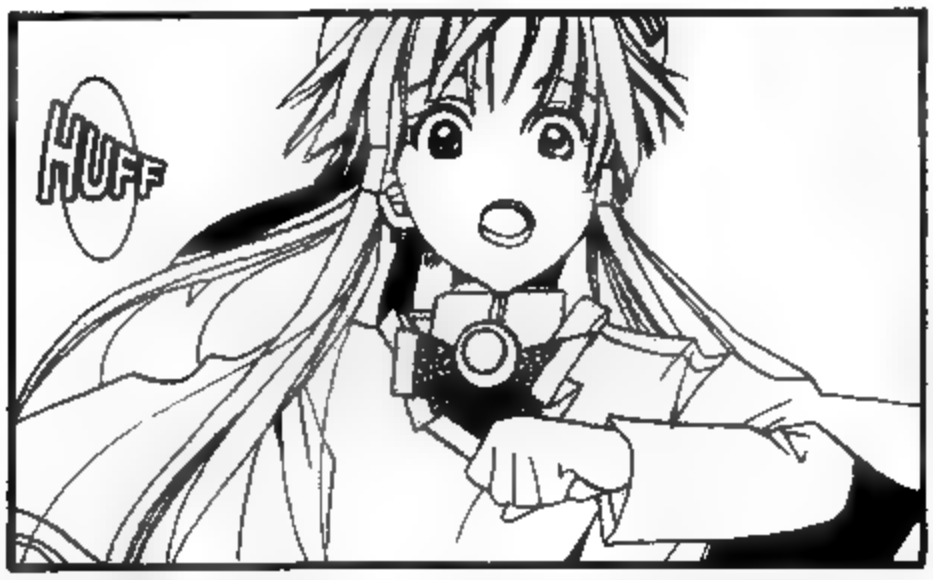

.....
SNAP
CRACK
SNAP
CRACKLE

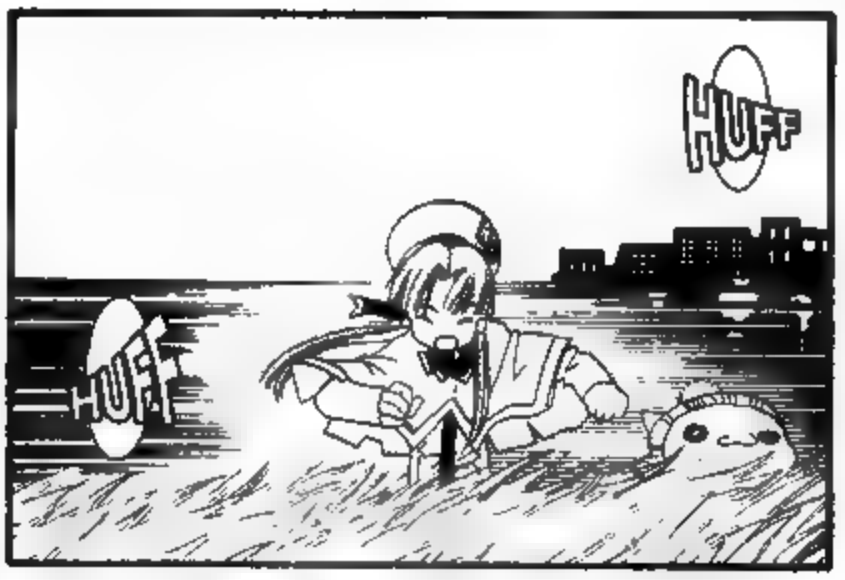
DO YOU WANT TO GO SAY GOODBYE?


WE MIGHT MAKE IT IF WE LEAVE NOW.

OKAY!


SPLSSH
POP


HUFF


HUFF
HUFF

!
BWFF

OH!

ふわん FWFF

ふわん FWFF

SO MANY SNOWBUGS.

ふわん FWFF

AKARI.

FWFF ふわん

SO YOU DID COME HERE.

THANK GOODNESS.

I CAME TO SAY GOODBYE.

THE SNOWBUGS ON AQUA LIVE A **LONG** TIME.

DON'T WORRY, AKARI.

I THINK YOU'LL SEE HIM AGAIN NEXT WINTER.

SHHH

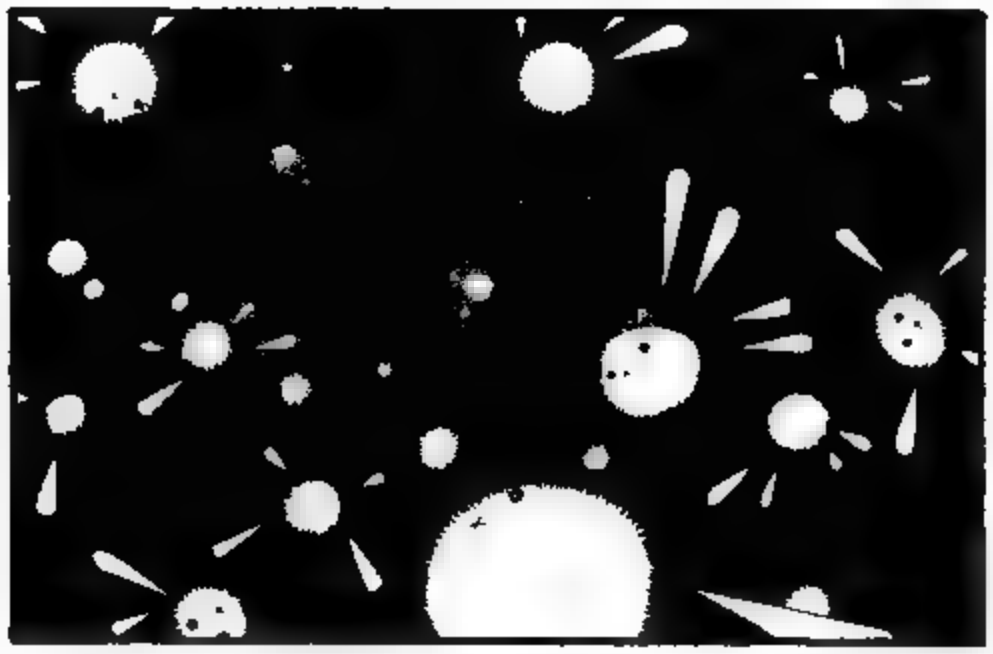
FSHHH

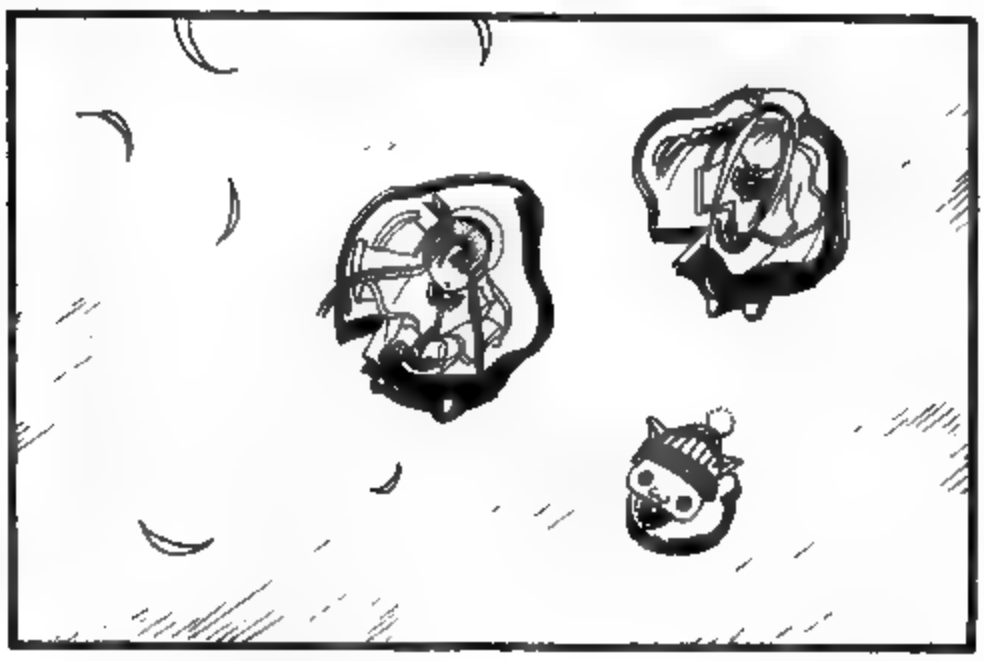
スス——

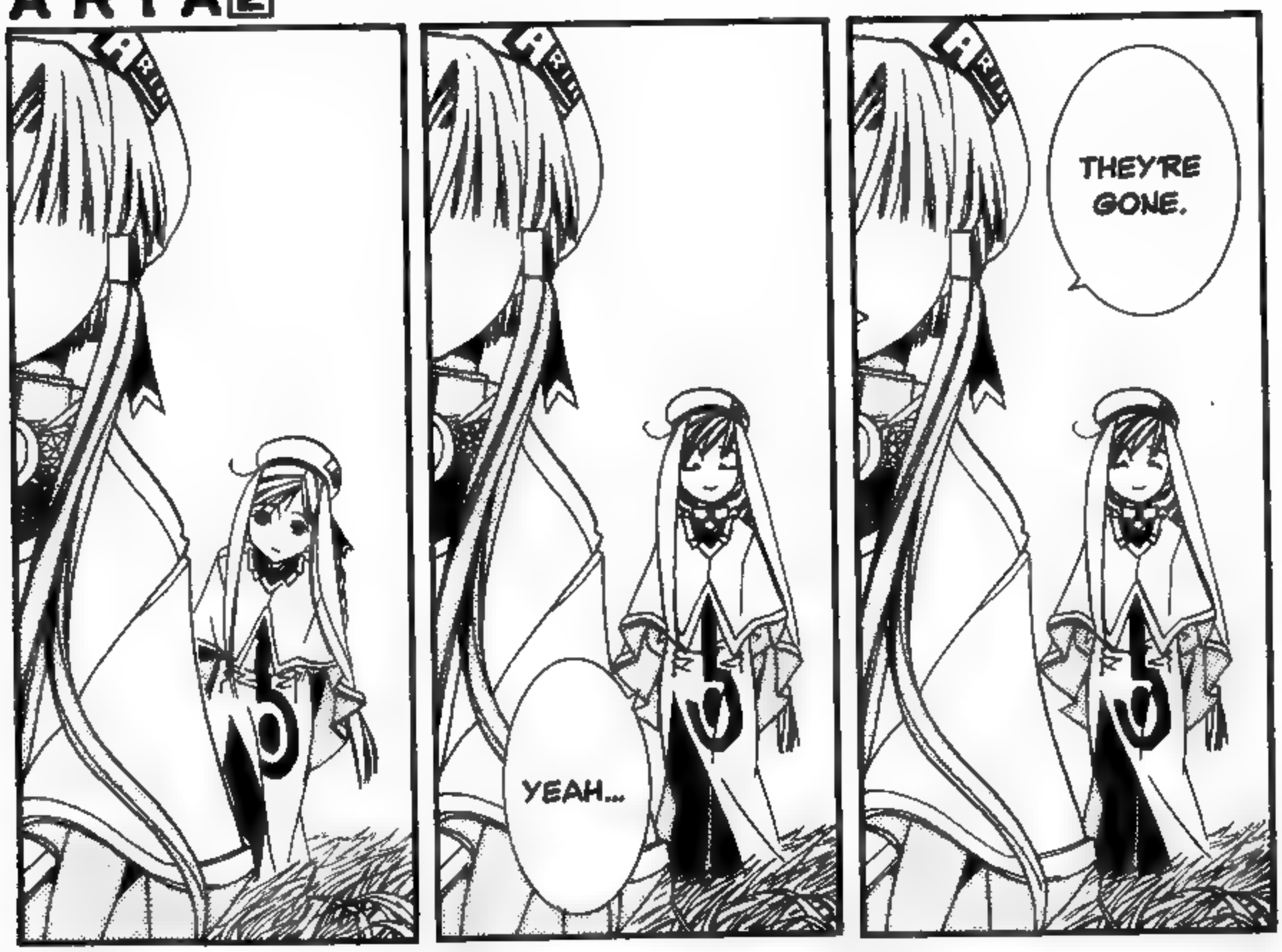
SO, I CAN SEE YOU AGAIN...

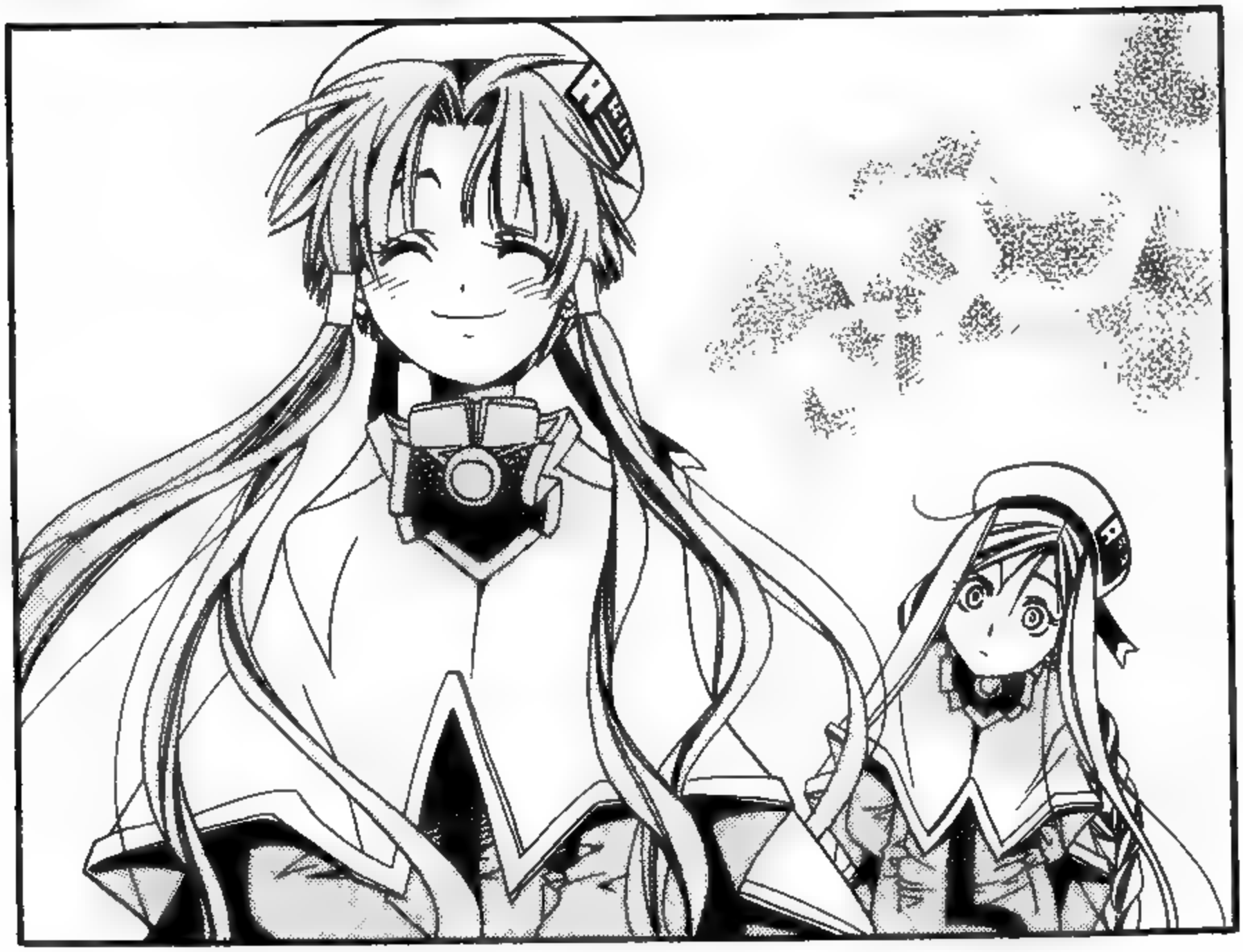
SHHH

BWSSHH






THEY'RE GONE.
YEAH...



AND SO, THE SNOWBUGS SET OUT ON THEIR JOURNEY.

?

WELL, THAT MAKES ME FEEL KIND OF HAPPY, TOO.

FWOOO

ヒュオオオ

BRR!

I'M SAD THAT I WON'T GET TO SEE THEM UNTIL NEXT WINTER...

BUT JUST KNOWING THAT THEY'RE OUT THERE SOMEWHERE, LIVING HAPPILY...

I'M SO HUNGRY.

?

LET'S GO HOME. FOR DINNER.
I'LL MAKE MY SPECIAL STEW.
WHOOPEE!
NYU.

OH!

IT'S THE FIRST SNOW!

Navigation07 UTOPIA

HAHHH...

A LIGHT SNOW HAS FALLEN OVER NEO-VENEZIA.

HOW ARE YOU?

IT'S THE COLDEST TIME OF THE YEAR.

IT'S- SO- COLD.

CHATTER CHATTER CHATTER CHATTER CHATTER CHATTER

YOU'LL FEEL WARM IF YOU GET MOVING!

AKARI! QUIT GOOFING AROUND DURING PRACTICE!

M'SORRY.

YOUR HANDS ARE FREEZING!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

AIEE!

ぴゅ◎ THP とっ

F-FEEL THIS!

とII— BA-BAM!! ーん

IF YOU WANT TO BE A FULL-FLEDGED UNDINE, YOU HAVE TO GET YOUR ACT TOGETHER!

WE HAVE TO DEAL WITH WEATHER RANGING FROM SCORCHING HOT TO FREEZING COLD.

BEING AN UNDINE MEANS HAVING TO WORK AROUND **WATER**. IT'S NOT ALWAYS EASY-

WEATHER LIKE THIS KIND OF MAKES YOU WANT TO GO TO A **HOT SPRING**, HUH?

BUT... IT'S- SO- COLD.

...

OH, BOY.

CHATTER CHATTER CHATTER CHATTER CHATTER CHATTER CHATTER

A HOT SPRING WILL WARM YOU UP, INSIDE AND OUT.

OH BOY OH BOY

GRIN

THE ENVIRON-MENT THERE'S PRETTY MUCH COMPU-TERIZED...

OH YEAH. BEING FROM MAN HOME, I GUESS YOU'VE NEVER BEEN TO A REAL HOT SPRING.

NOD NOD

HOT SPRING?

YOU MEAN, LIKE A NATURAL OUTDOOR SPA?

ZOOM

OH, YEAH!

YOU WANT TO GO TO ONE ON OUR NEXT DAY OFF?

HUH?

SWSSHHH

MIND IF WE TAG ALONG?

LEAVE EVERYTHING TO ME!

BWAM!

YOU TOOK A DAY OFF, TOO, MISS ALICIA?

TEE-HEE

NOT AT ALL!

DO YOU MIND?

YIPPEE! I CAN'T WAIT!

I KNOW A VERY GOOD HOT SPRING!

WELL, WELL...

CAN YOU TELL ME MORE ABOUT THEM?

BA-THMP BA-THMP

I'VE ONLY SEEN HOT SPRINGS IN A HOLOGRAM.

MISS ALICIA! MISS ALICIA!

BA-DUMP BA-DUMP

MOST HOT SPRINGS ARE GROUNDWATER THAT'S BEEN WARMED BY VOLCANIC HEAT.

THEY'RE CATEGORIZED ACCORDING TO THE SUBSTANCE THEY CONTAIN.

TECHNICALLY, A "HOT SPRING" IS WHEN THE WATER REMAINS HIGHER THAN THE LOCAL AVERAGE TEMPERATURE ALL YEAR LONG.

BUT IT'S USUALLY CALLED A HOT SPRING IF THE WATER IS HIGHER THAN 25 DEGREES CELSIUS, OR IF IT CONTAINS A CERTAIN SUBSTANCE.

AKARI, LOOK!

"HOT SPRING 101"
BROUGHT TO YOU BY ALICIA

1 CARBONATE SPRING
2 BICARBONATE SPRING
3 SALINE SPRING
4 CALCIUM SULFATE SPRING
5 IRON SPRING
6 SULFUR SPRING
7 ACID SPRING
8 RADON ION SPRING
9 THERMAL SPRING

WHOA!

THERE ARE NINE DIFFERENT TYPES OF HOT SPRINGS, AND ALL ARE SAID TO BE MEDICALLY BENEFICIAL.

THERE IT IS!

SWSSSHH

WOW--

SWSSSHH

SO, THIS IS A HOT SPRING RESORT?

女 WOMEN

男 MEN

LET'S GO, AKARI!

IT'S NOT WHAT I'D IMAGINED...

BATH ETIQUETTE

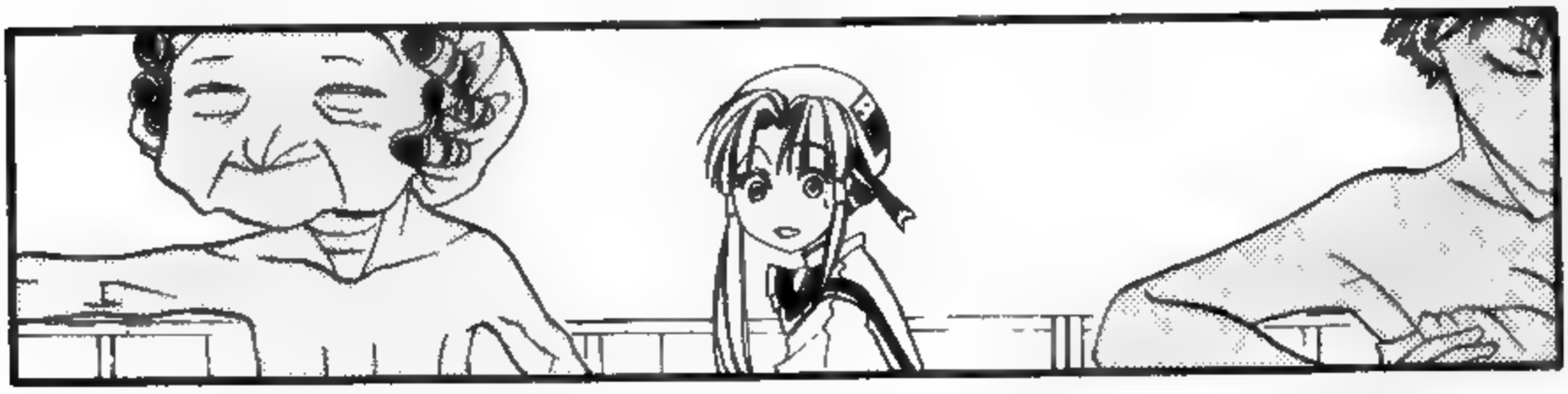
...

わいわい CHATTER

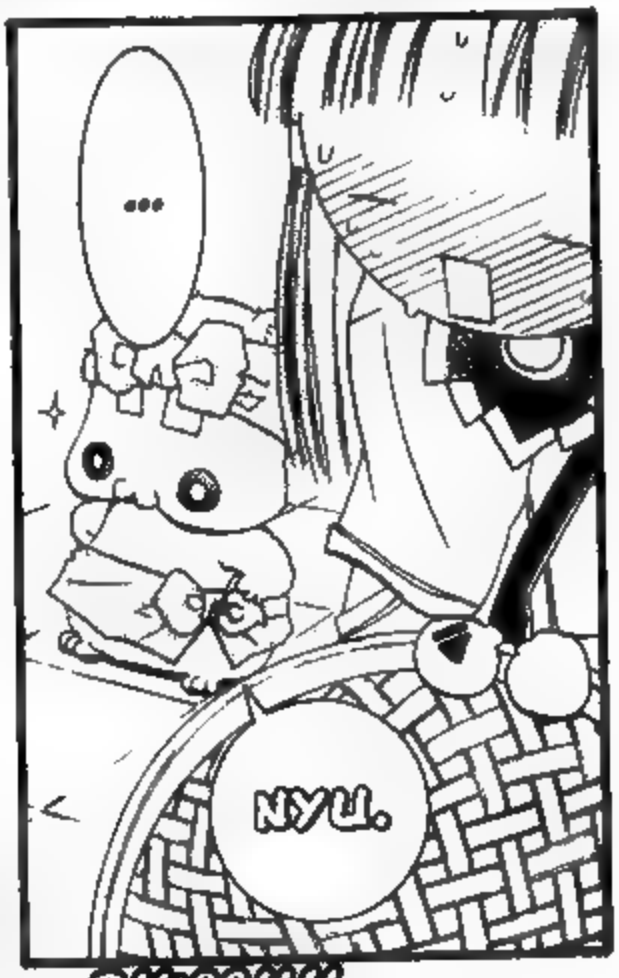
WELCOME.

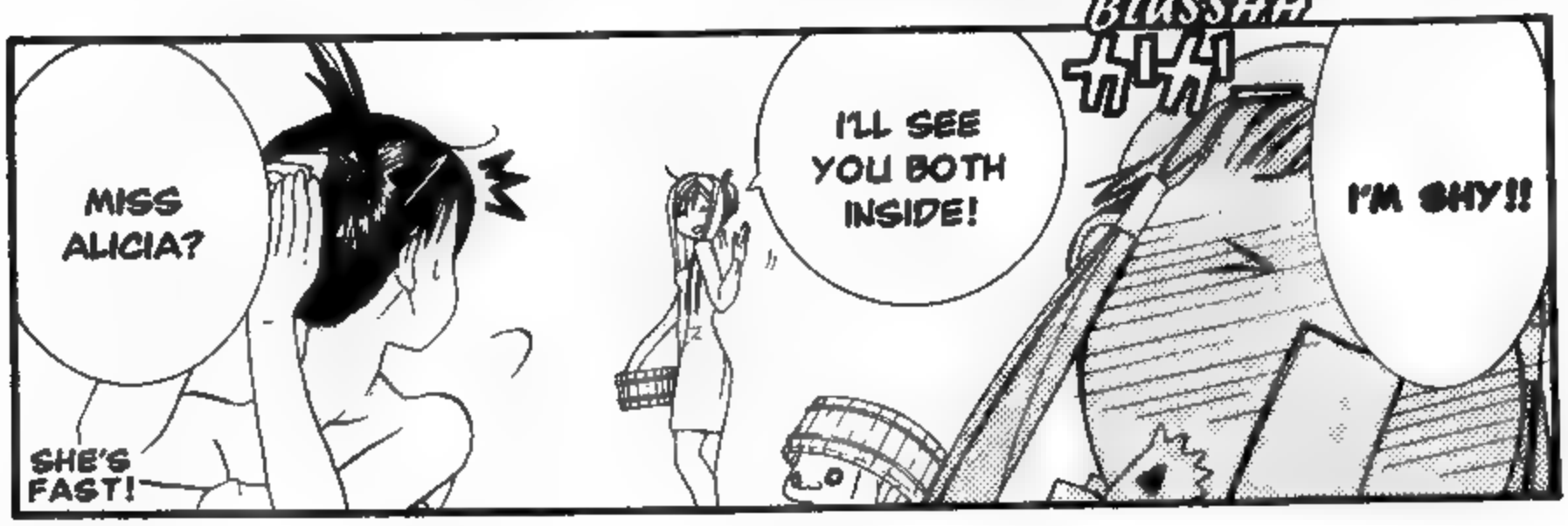
WHOA!
IT'S TO PUT YOUR CLOTHES IN.

?
HERE, THIS IS FOR YOU.



WITH OTHER PEOPLE BEFORE.
UH, I'VE NEVER... TAKEN A BATH...
WHAT'S WRONG, AKARI?


...
NYU.


MISS ALICIA?
SHE'S FAST!
I'LL SEE YOU BOTH INSIDE!
BLUSSHH
I'M SHY!!

WAAIT!

FIDGET もた

もた FIDGET

WAAIT!

FOLDING IT NEATLY

もた FIDGET

もた FIDGET

RATTLE RATTLE がこら がこら

← BATH SET

DASH たた

'K, SEE YA!

WHA-?!

THP THP THP てっ てっ てっ

I SAID, WAAIT!

SLOWPOKE KLUTZES ARE PROHIBITED!

BWOMP ひゅ

"SPLSH"?
THP
THP
THP
SPLSH
HWEHHH.
WATCH YOUR STEP. IT'S SLIPPERY.

KA— SPLSSSH

DUMBFOUNDED

WHAT DO YOU THINK? ISN'T IT UNIQUE?

THIS IS A HOT SPRING?!

YUP.

LI'CMON

SURPRISED?

THIS PLACE IS FAMOUS HERE ON AQUA.

IT USED TO BE JUST A BIG OLD MANSION.

SPLISH

SPLISH

SPLISH

WOW...

WHEN THEY FOUND THE HOT SPRING HERE, THEY TURNED THE WHOLE MANSION INTO A HUGE BATH.

THE OLD COUPLE WHO OWNED THIS PLACE WAS PRETTY SMART.

YEAH.

...

SURE, THE BUILDING IS OLD AND KINDA FALLING APART.

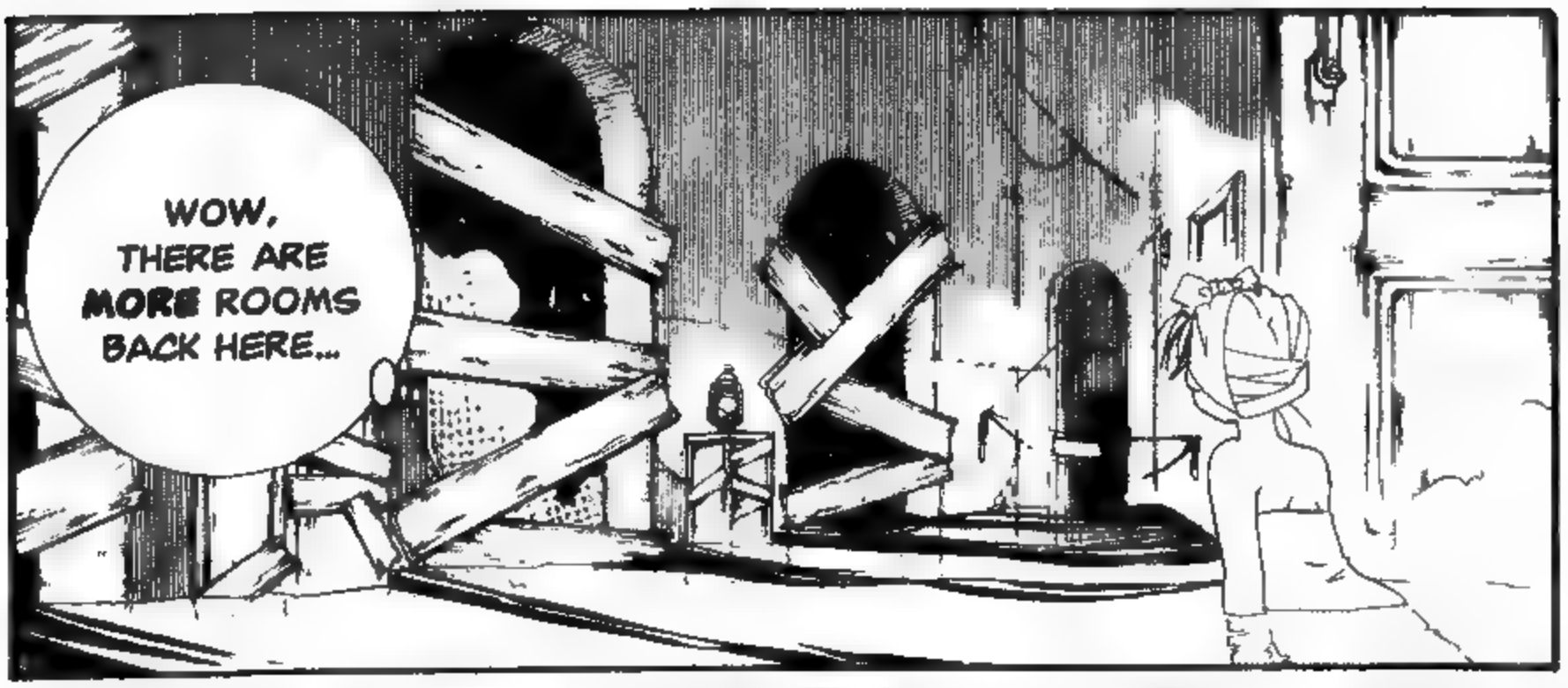
BUT THAT JUST ADDS TO THE ATMOSPHERE.

WHAA?!
THAT'S ENOUGH OUTTA YOU!
STAB!

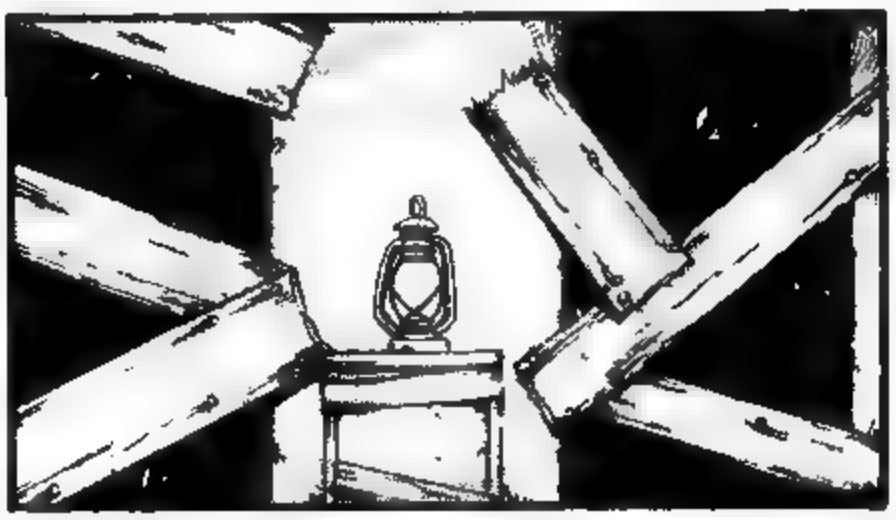
IT LOOKS LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF AN OLD FOLK TALE. A PLACE WHERE FAIRIES WOULD LIVE...

KA-CLACK
!

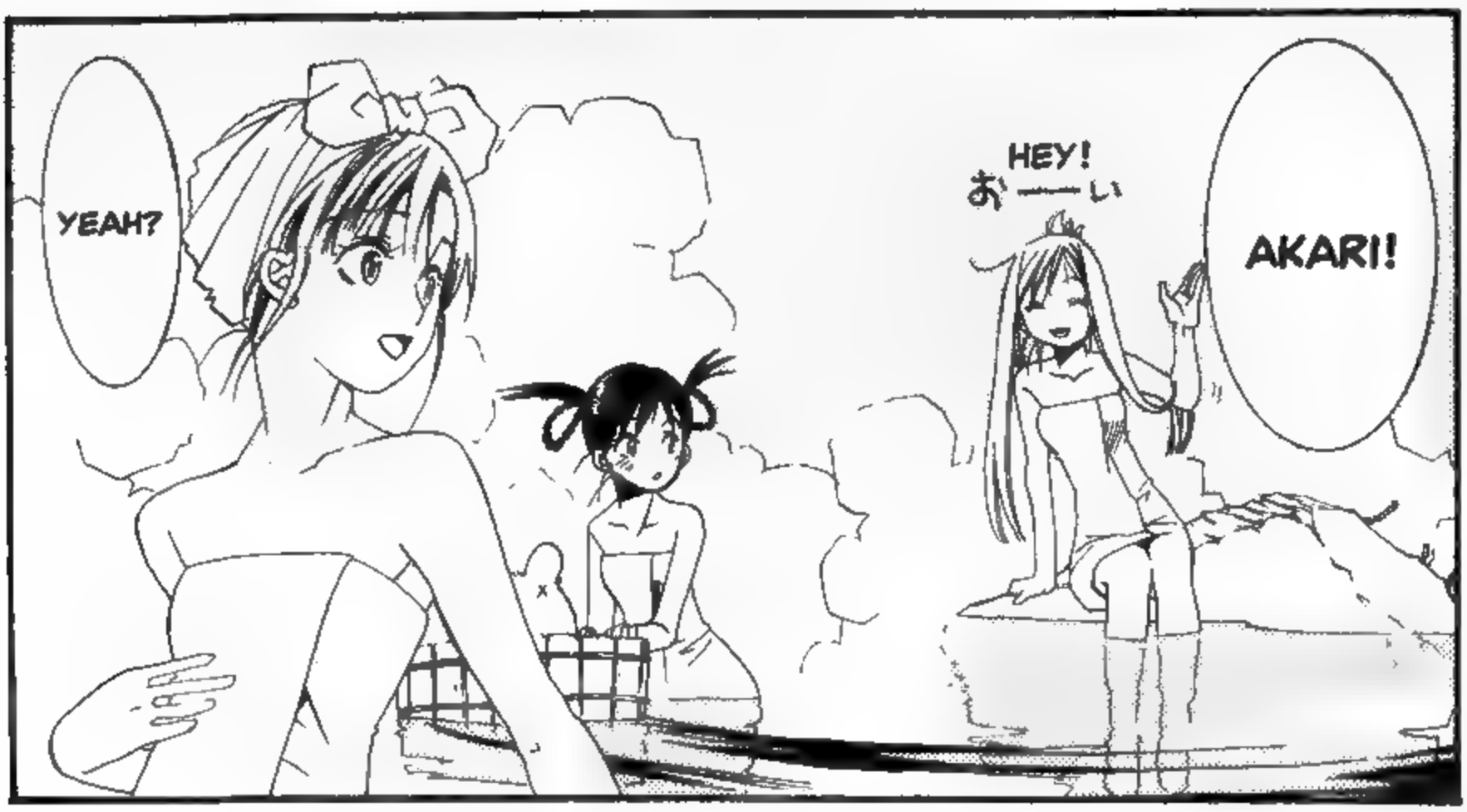
PHEW


WOW, THERE ARE MORE ROOMS BACK HERE...

DO NOT ENTER



I WONDER WHAT'S BEHIND THE DOOR.


YEAH?
HEY!
おーーい
AKARI!

I THINK I'VE FALLEN IN LOVE WITH THIS PLACE.

DEEP INSIDE A MYSTERIOUS MANSION...

SPLOOSH

A HUGE BATH THAT LOOKS LIKE IT GOES ON FOREVER,

BOTH INSIDE AND OUT.

HAHHH...

I FEEL SO WARM.

KA-SPLSSSH

あらあら
WELL, WELL.
IT'S TIME FOR DINNER!
NOW THAT WE'VE HAD A NICE RELAXING BATH,
わーい
WHOOPEE!
いっただきまーす
LET'S EAT!
WELL THEN...
SPLSSSHH
OKAY!
ADULT!
WOULD YOU LIKE A SIP?
...
HEH HEH HEH.
MISS ALICIA, YOU'RE DRINKING TONIC?
HOW GROWN-UP!

WELL, WELL...

IT'S SO BITTER!

あ"

BLEH!

OH, WELL.

GLUG GLUG GLUG GLUG

TA-DAA!

MILK

MILK

AFTER A BATH, YOU CAN'T GO WRONG WITH COFFEE-FLAVORED MILK!

ぶはぁ

AHHHHHH!

YEAH...

THAT HIT THE SPOT.

FWSSHH

...

YEAH.

THE WIND FEELS SO NICE.

WHISPERING→

?

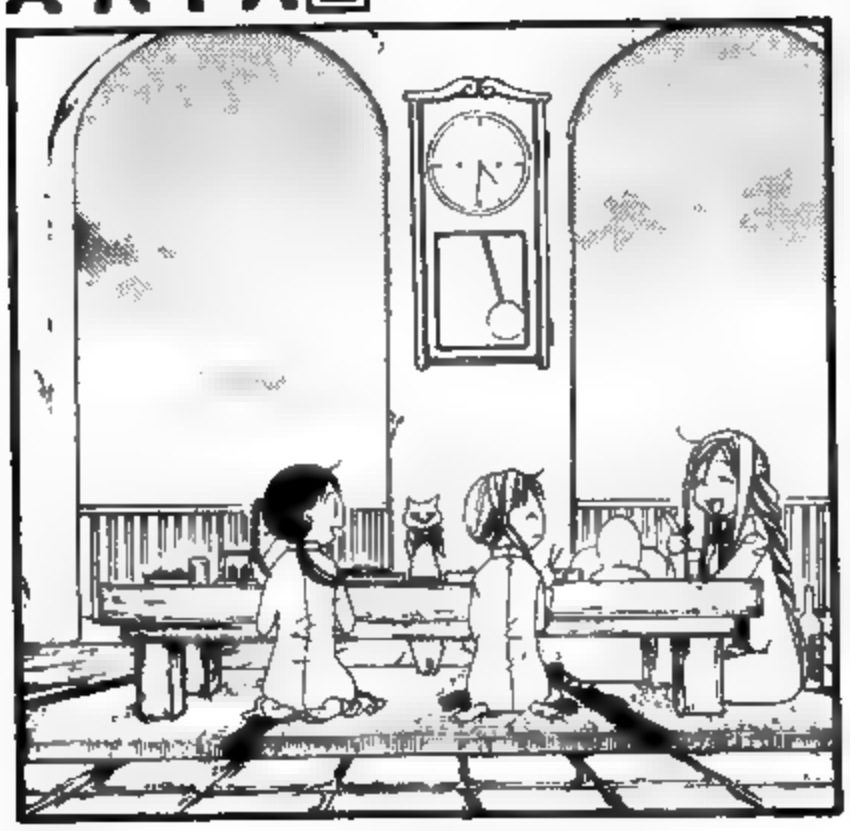
AND TO TOP IT ALL OFF, MISS ALICIA'S HERE! ♡

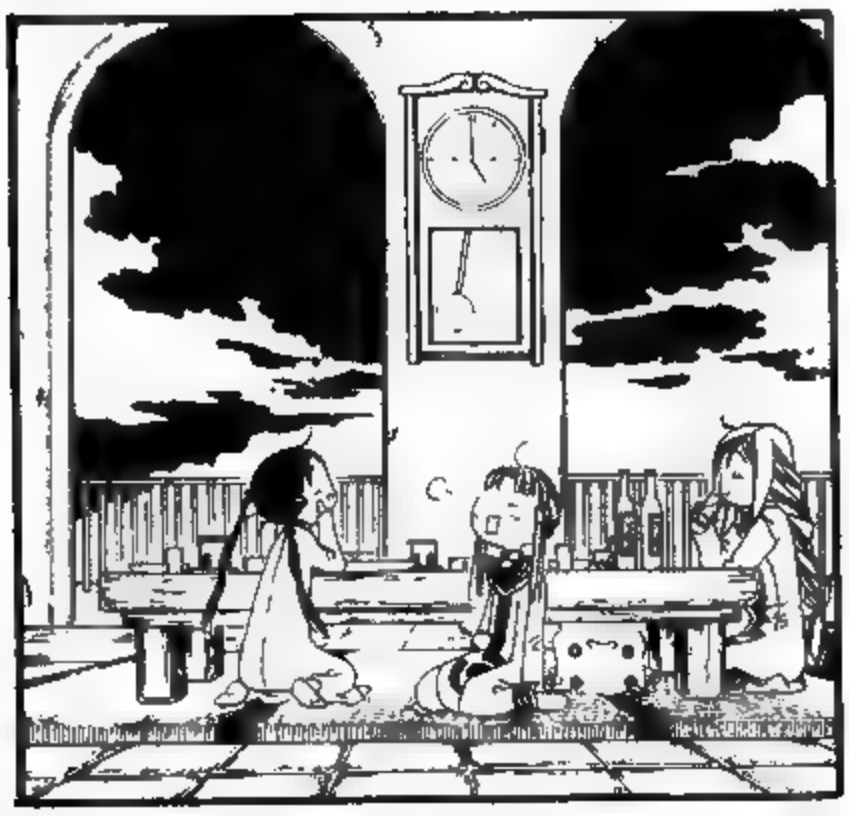
CRUNCH

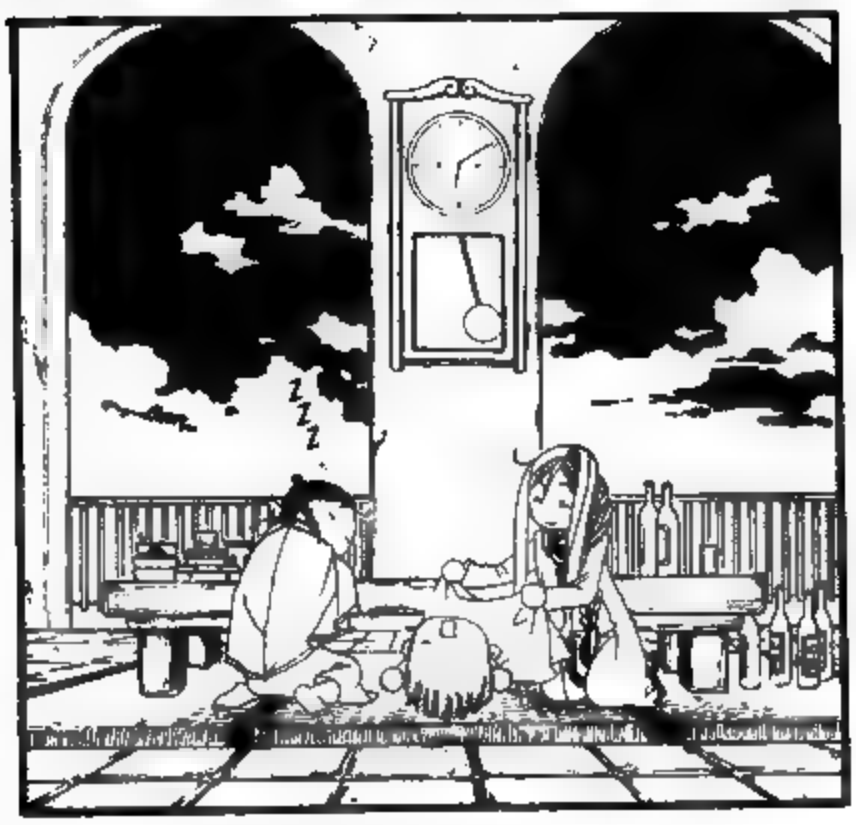
yum yum yum

DELICIOUS FOOD...

WE'VE GOT ICE-COLD, COFFEE-FLAVORED MILK,







AAH... IT'S HEAVENLY.
SSWSSHH

I WAS SO COMFORTABLE, I FELL RIGHT ASLEEP.

RUSTLE むくり

HM?

HEY, SLEEPY-HEADS!

HUH?

HEH HEH HEH.

HAVE YOU BEEN UP ALL THIS TIME, MISS ALICIA?

LOOK AT THE TIME!

OH, MY!

I FEEL KIND OF GUILTY, RELAXING LIKE THIS.

YEAH.

USUALLY, WE'D BE GETTING OFF WORK AND STARTING TO COOK DINNER RIGHT NOW.

YAAWN

TRAINING IS IMPOR-TANT,

BUT IT'S ALSO IMPORTANT TO TAKE A **BREAK** EVERY NOW AND THEN.

ON A DAY OFF,

WE TRAINEES SHOULD BE PRACTICING **ROWING** INSTEAD OF LOUNGING AROUND.

I FEEL LIKE I'M DOING SOME-THING **WRONG**, ALMOST.

I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN.

BESIDES,

コトン TOK

HOT SPRINGS ARE **SUPPOSED** TO MAKE YOU SO RELAXED YOU ALMOST FEEL GUILTY.

THAT'S PART OF THEIR **MAGIC.**

WELL, I'M STARTING TO FEEL A LITTLE CHILLY...

ZUISHP

...

I'M GOING TO RELAX ALL THE WAY TODAY!

WHY DON'T WE TAKE ANOTHER BATH?

HOT SPRING! ♡

YIPPEE!

SWSSHH

OOR

KA-SPLSH

THIS WAY!

WAAA——,

...IT'S THAT PLACE FROM BEFORE...

THERE! THE END OF THE ROAD...

MISS ALICIA!

IT'S PITCH BLACK!

HEH HEH HEH.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

DO NOT ENTER

MISS ALICIA, I DON'T THINK WE'RE SUPPOSED TO GO IN THERE.

I'LL SHOW YOU SOMEPLACE SPECIAL.

HEH HEH HEH.

IT RUNS RIGHT TO THE OCEAN!

SWSSHH

COMPLETELY BY ACCIDENT.

I FOUND THIS SECRET HOT SPRING...

HEH HEH.

BUT WE CAN ONLY COME HERE AT NIGHT.

THEY'D SEE YOU IN THE DAYTIME.

WOWWW!

WHOOPEE!

OCEAN BATH!

SPLASHH

ざぶぶ〜〜ん

OOPS.

BUSTED.

TO THIS HOT SPRING?

MISS ALICIA... YOU'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE?

SORRY, I COULDN'T FIND THE RIGHT TIME.

MISS ALICIA'S CRAZY.

JEEZ!

HOW COME YOU DIDN'T TELL US?

...

THIS PLACE IS HUGE! YOU JUST GOTTA SWIM!

てくてく——む

S...SWIM!

EHEHEH. BUT.

DON'T GET TOO CARRIED AWAY, AKARI!

てく——む

SWIM

SPLASHH

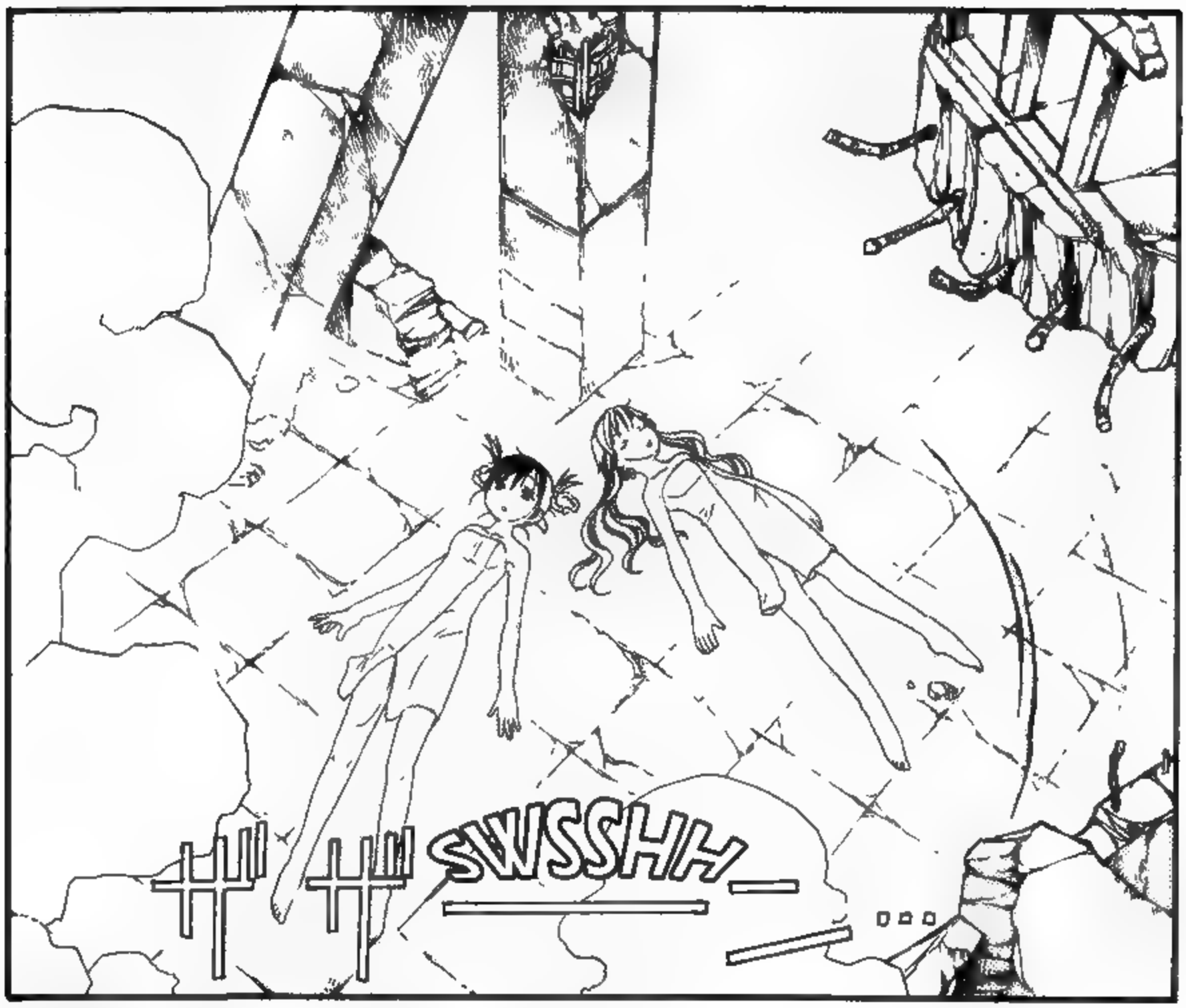
ざぶぶ〜〜ん

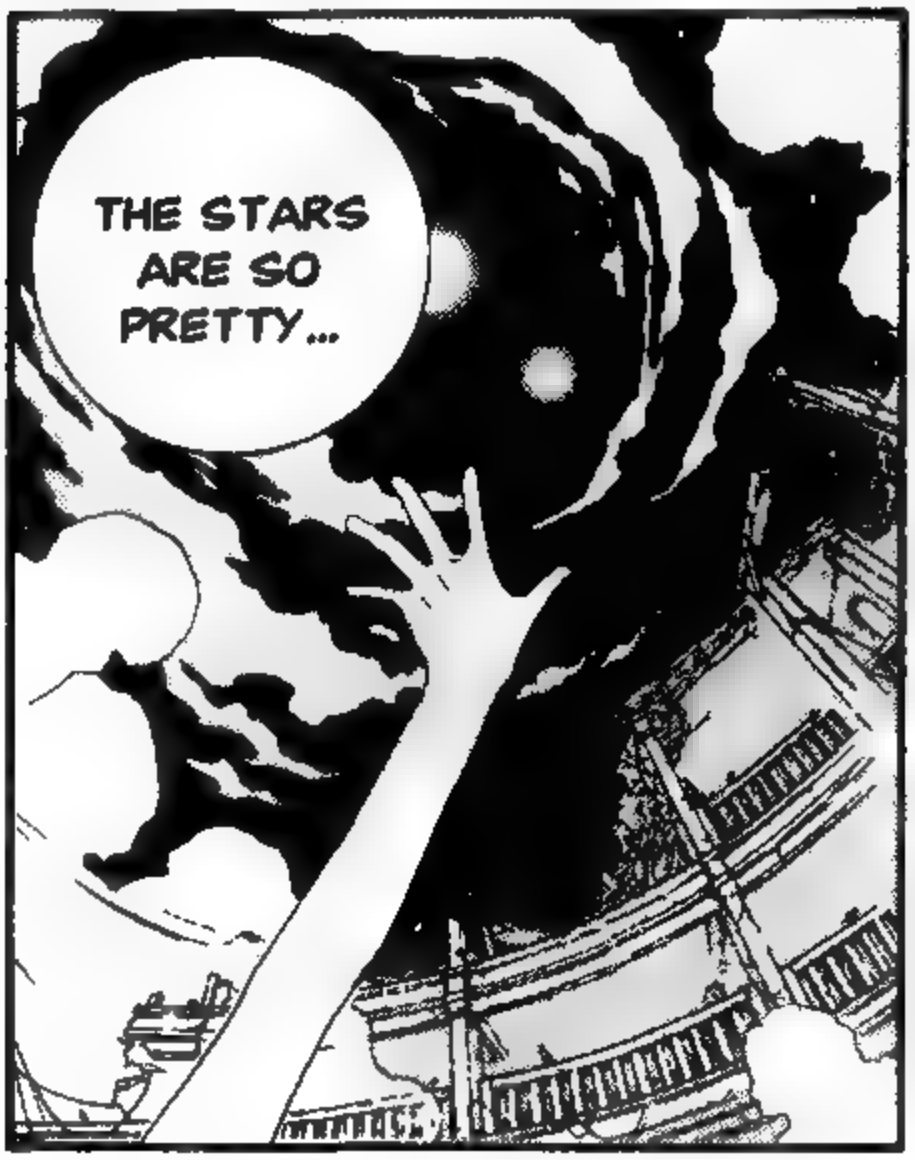
NYU.

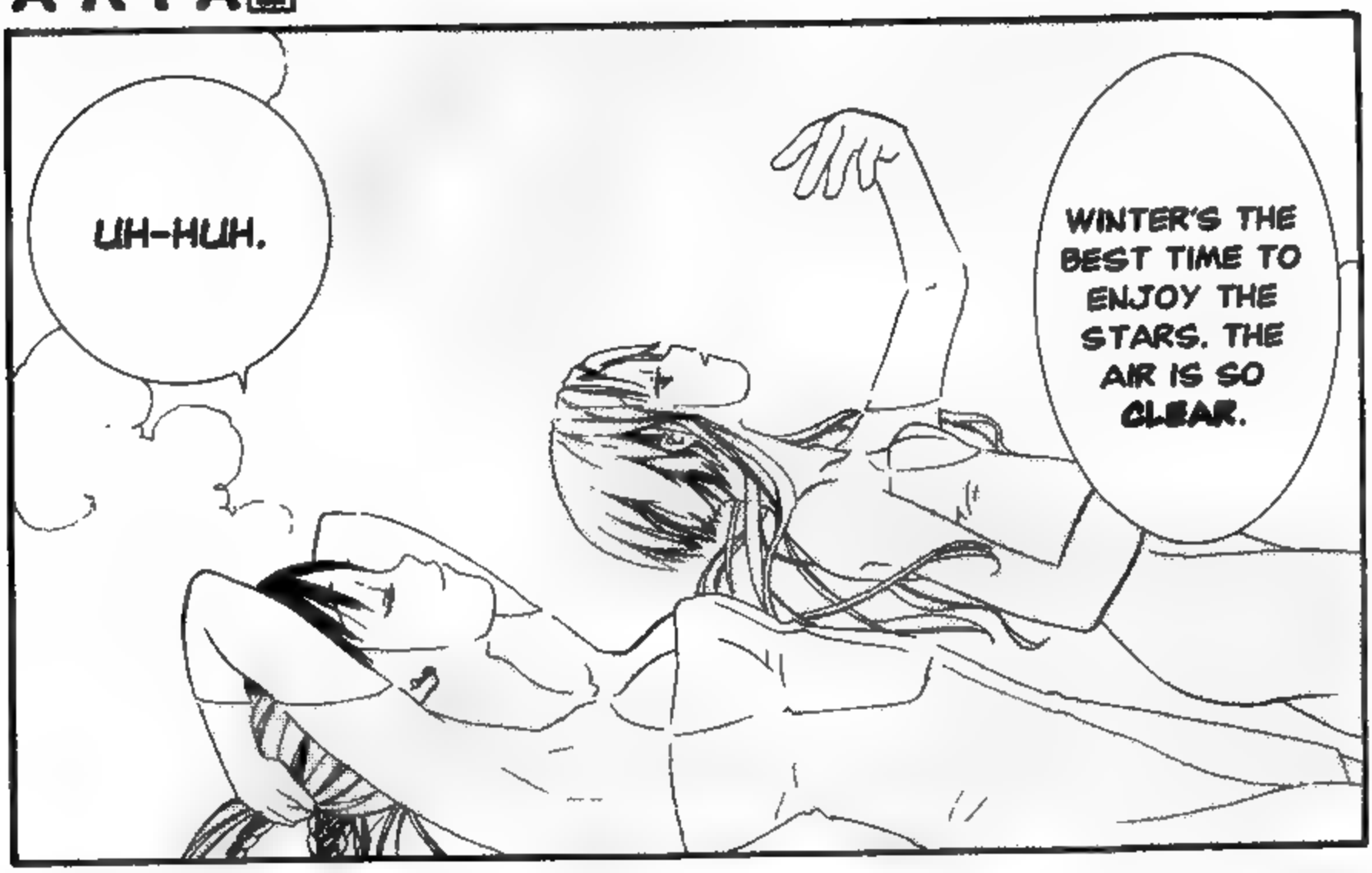
YAHOO!

WAAAAAH!

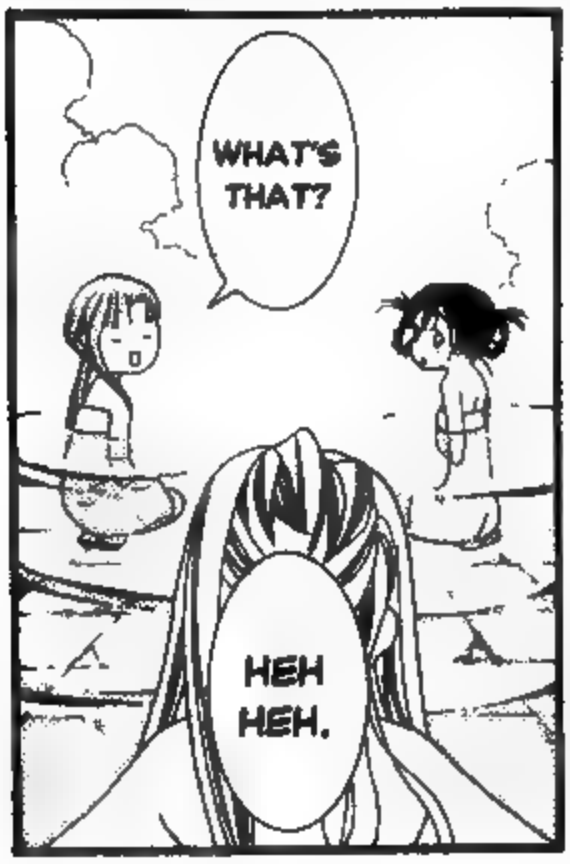
GOOD POINT!

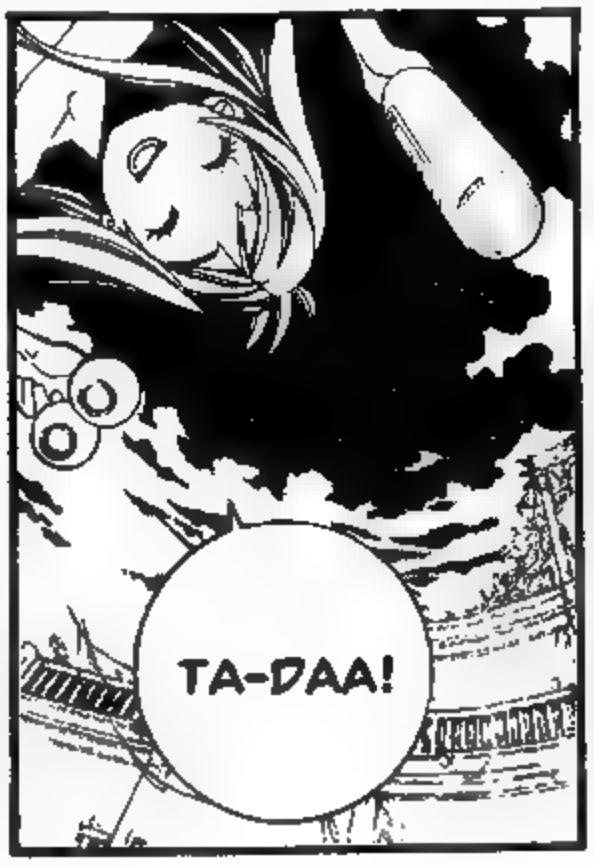

SWSSHH


THE STARS ARE SO PRETTY...


UH-HUH.
WINTER'S THE BEST TIME TO ENJOY THE STARS. THE AIR IS SO CLEAR.

UH-HUH.
AND DROWN
I FEEL LIKE I COULD FALL ASLEEP RIGHT HERE...


WHAT'S THAT?
HEH HEH.


TA-DAA!

POINK!
ぴょこん
OH.

HERE'S YOUR CUP!

VOILÀ! じゃん

IT'S SWEET AND IT'S NOT TOO STRONG, SO I THINK YOU'LL LIKE IT.

A DELICIOUS PEACH DRINK!

THE REST IS MINE.

BUT YOU ONLY GET TO DRINK ONE GLASS EACH.

I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO DO THIS IN AN OPEN-AIR BATH.

HEH HEH.

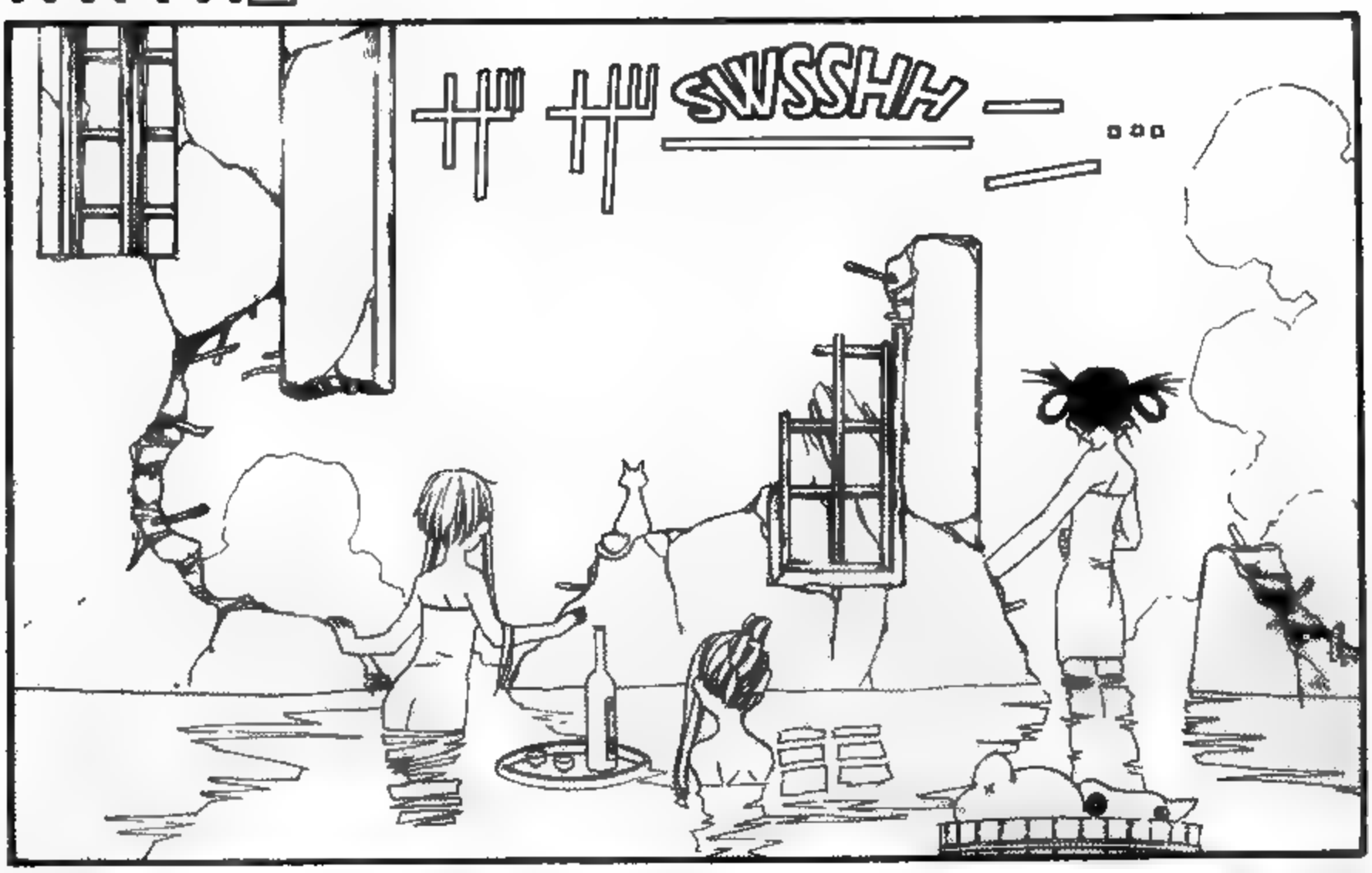
SLOSH さぶ ぶる

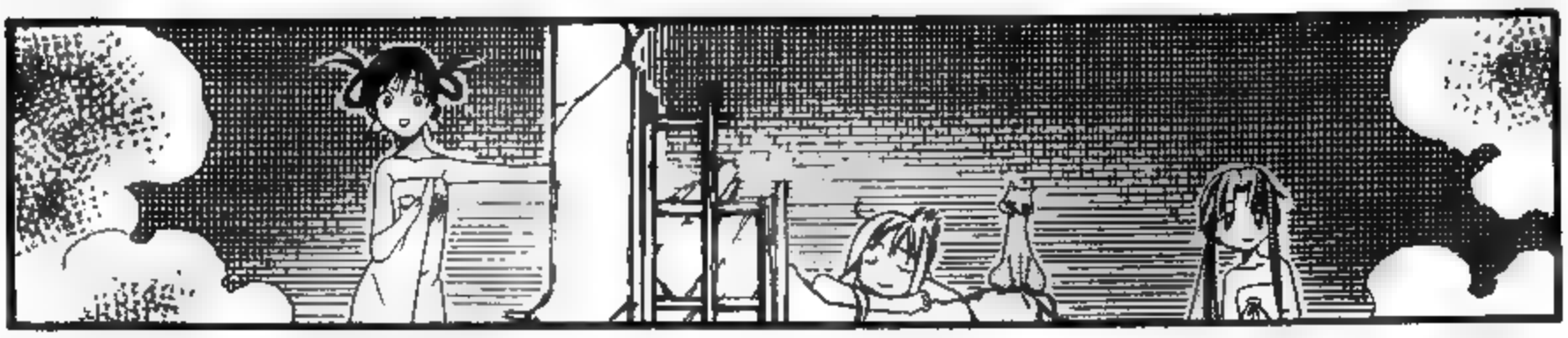
SHE REALLY IS CRAZY.

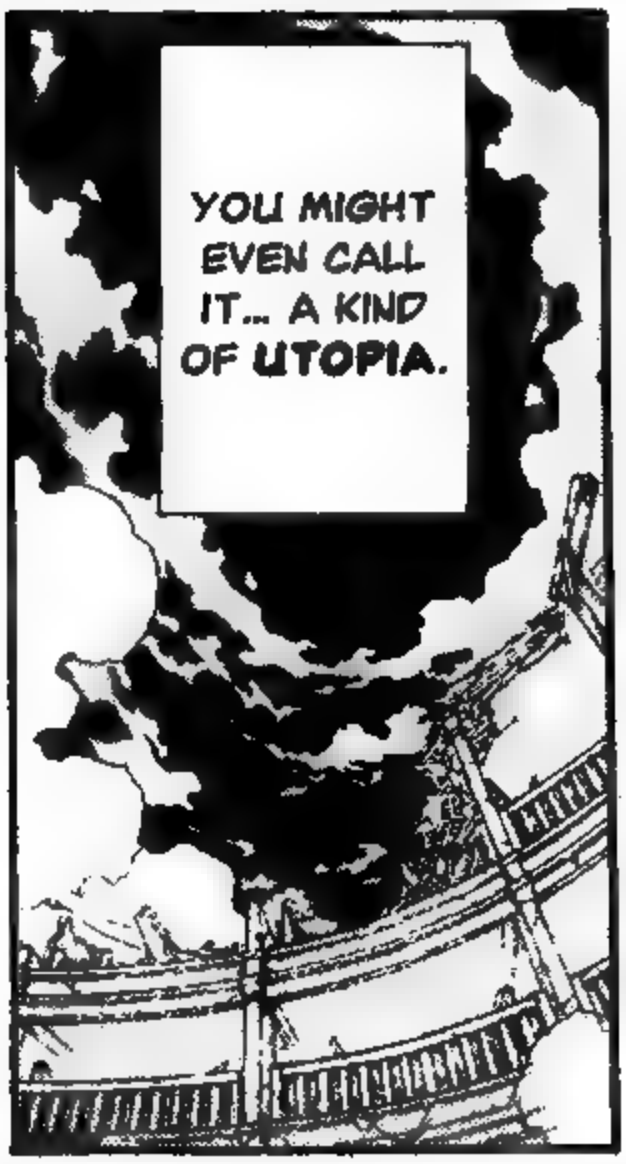
さぶ ぶる SLOSH

IT TASTED... SAD, SOMEHOW.

THE DRINK WAS SLIGHTLY SWEET AND ICE-COLD.


SWSSHH




YOU MIGHT EVEN CALL IT... A KIND OF UTOPIA.

TODAY WAS SUCH A RELAXING, INDULGENT DAY FOR ME.

AND I FEEL TOTALLY **RECHARGED.**

MY FIRST EVER VISIT TO A HOT SPRING...

WHEN I GO BACK TO WORK TOMORROW, I'M GONNA GIVE IT MY ALL.

YEAH!—

Special-Navigation
A DAY IN THE LIFE OF PRESIDENT ARIA

I'VE NOTICED THAT PRESIDENT ARIA ALWAYS COMES AND WATCHES ME WHEN I'M BLOW-DRYING MY HAIR.

STARE

VWOOOOOO

ぶぉー

VWOOOOOO

くる TURN

ぶぉー

NYU. SHIVER

びくっ

VWOOOOOO

ぶぉー

NYU. TWITCH

びくっ

HEY, PRESIDENT ARIA!

VWOOOOOO

ぶぉー

STARE

SCARED, BUT INTERESTED.

HE SHOULDN'T COME SO CLOSE IF HE'S SCARED OF IT.

VWOOOOOO

ぶぉー

STARE

...

VWOOOOOO

ぶぉー

WAA!

SHPOK

OH!

FWP FWP FWP FWP FWP

WAA!

THWMP!

AHAHAHAH

BWSSSSHH

PRESIDENT ARIA LOVES BEING INSIDE A BAG.

BNYUUUUU!

NYU.

RUSTLE RUSTLE

PRESIDENT ARIA?

NOT VERY GOOD AT LANDING.

IT MAKES ME NERVOUS JUST WATCHING...

AHAHAHAH

BWSSSSHH

FWIP むく

PRESIDENT HIME LOVES BEING IN ORANGE BOXES.

WARM-N-TOASTY

ORANGES

...

BWOMP

CAN'T FIT IN.

ORANGES

PRESI-DENT ARIA...

WADDLE

WADDLE

ORANGES

POINK

SHPLP

ORANGES

LOVES BEING WHEREVER PRESIDENT HIME IS.

SCOOCH

SCOOCH

ORANGES

SOMEHOW, THOSE TWO NEVER SEEM TO GET ANY CLOSER.

WRIGGLE

CAN'T GET OUT.

FRAIL

ORANGES

JUMP

OH!

THD THD THD THD

OH, NO...

PRESIDENT ARIA HATES GETTING A BATH.

SCRUB SCRUB

GETS A LITTLE SAD IF NO ONE COMES AFTER HIM.

PEEK

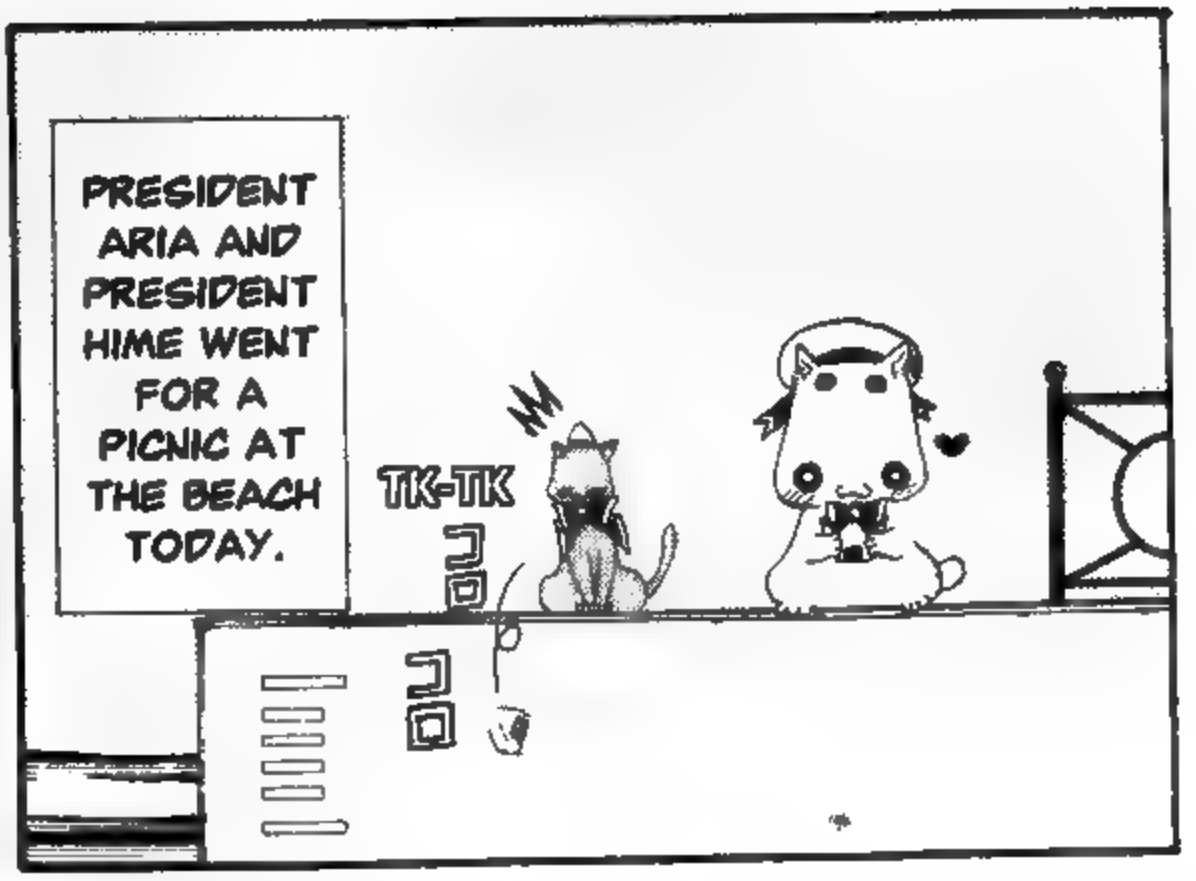
DING, DING! ROUND 2!

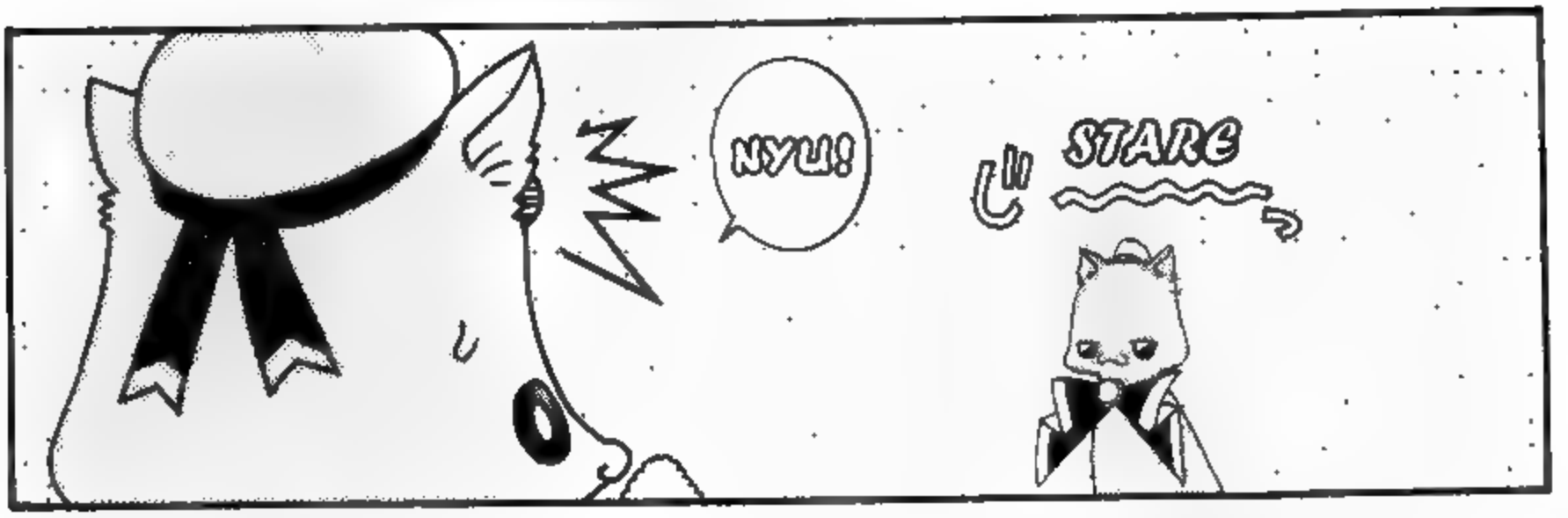
GIMON ALREADY!

DING.

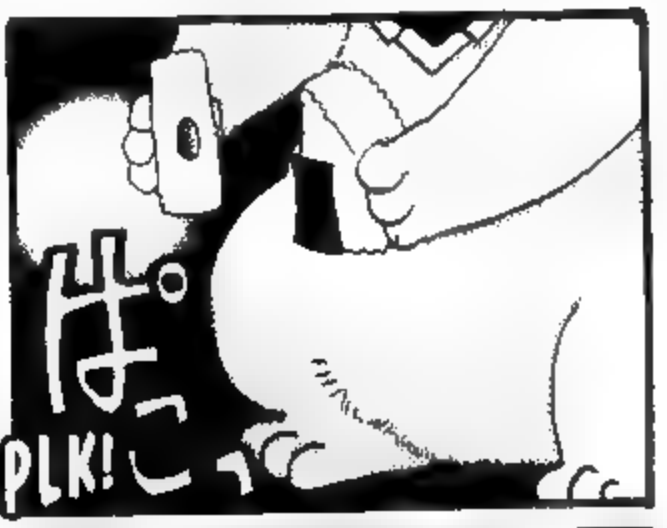
DEAD SILENCE

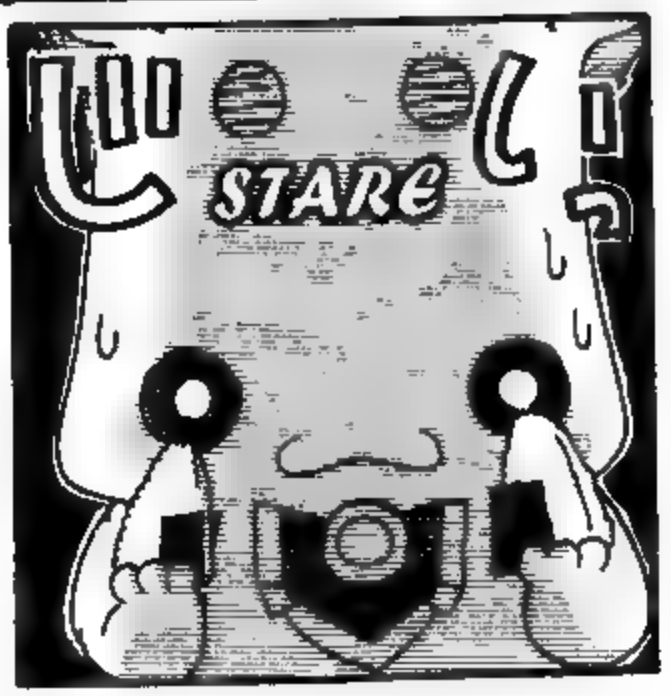
SPLSH


PRESIDENT ARIA AND PRESIDENT HIME WENT FOR A PICNIC AT THE BEACH TODAY.
TK-TK


NYU!
STARE

NYU.
PRESIDENT ARIA IS SUCH A GENTLE-MAN.
GIVING HER THE SMALLER ONE.


THPLK!


STARE

PRESIDENT ARIA IS USUALLY SWEET (AND SPOILED), BUT SOMETIMES HE GOES OUT OF CONTROL!

BA-BAM

THD THD THD THD THD

SKDDD

SMACK

MISS ALICIA! PRESIDENT ARIA IS FIGHTING WITH SOMETHING!

BRUSH

GRRRR

BWMP

THWP THWP

CAT KICK

IN HEAV-EN.

I-THINK HE LIKES MUNCHING ON IT.

HE'S ONLY THAT WAY WITH THINGS, NOT PEOPLE.

Navigation08
VOICES OF THE STARS

I'M WORKING HARD EVERY DAY, AND DOING JUST FINE.

I'M LEAVING NOW!

KCHK ｶﾁｬ

HOW ARE YOU?

I'M SO COLD!

CHATTER CHATTER CHATTER

WELL, WELL. あらあら

ARE YOU ALRIGHT, AKARI?

BECAUSE IT'S FURTHER AWAY FROM THE SUN THAN EARTH.

BUT, ISN'T AQUA ACTUALLY SUPPOSED TO BE COLDER THAN THIS?

THAT'S RIGHT.

BUT I DON'T REALLY LIKE THIS WEATHER. WINTER SEEMS TO BE GETTING ME DOWN...

WELL, I'D LIKE TO SAY THAT,

LOSING な

NYU!?

STRENGTH な

FAST な

GOOD JOB, MR. AKATSUKI.

YOU'RE RIGHT. THE LENGTH OF THE SEASONS IS DIFFERENT, BUT THE **TEMPERATURE** IS ABOUT THE SAME.

HUH?

ARIA COMPANY

THERE'S ONE MORE BIG DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AQUA AND MAN HOME.

THE **GRAVITATIONAL PULL** IS MUCH LESS HERE.

REALLY? YOU MEAN, LIKE ON THE MOON?

SO I CAN JUMP AROUND AND STUFF?

IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN, GRAVITY ON THE MOON IS ONE SIXTH THAT OF MAN HOME'S.

IT'S BECAUSE THE **SALAMANDERS** ON THE FLOATING ISLANDS CONTROL THE WEATHER.

THEY MAKE THE SUMMERS AND THE WINTERS HERE ABOUT THE SAME AS MAN HOME'S.

BUT A YEAR IS TWICE AS LONG HERE AS IT IS ON MAN HOME, SO THE **COLD** LASTS TWICE AS LONG, TOO.

THERE ARE PEOPLE CALLED **GNOMES** WHO LIVE UNDERGROUND.

WOW

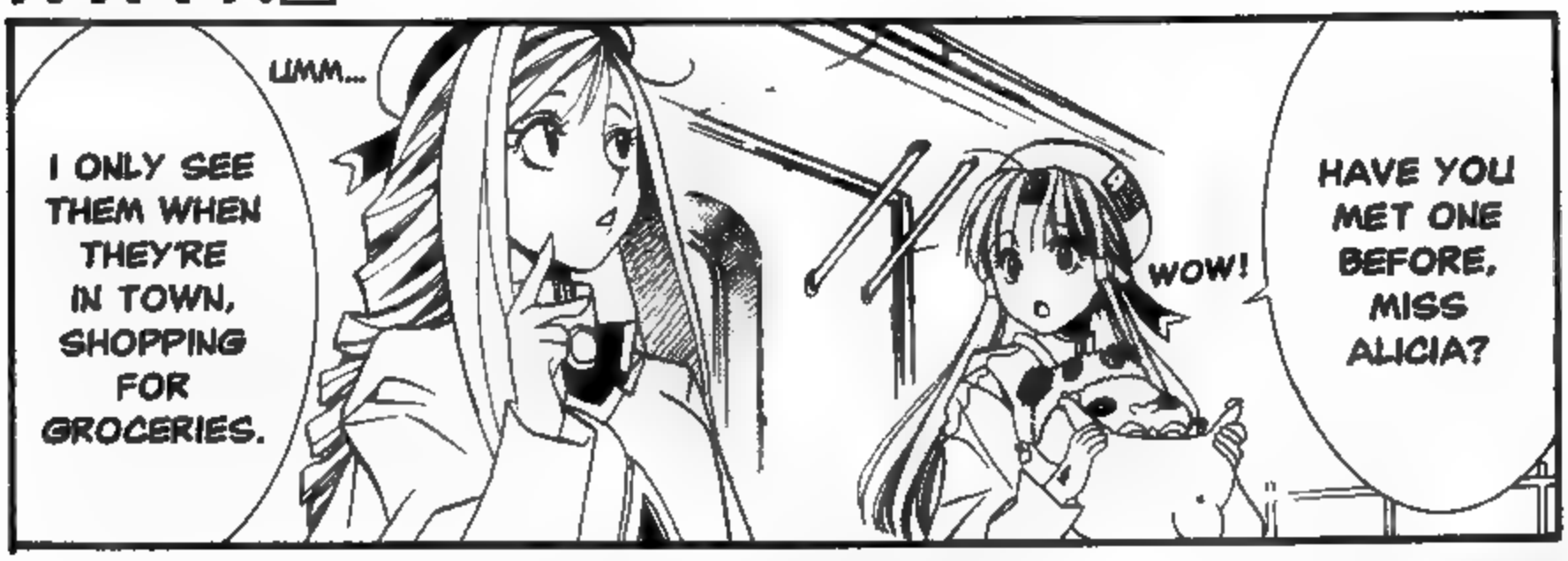
THEY KEEP AQUA'S GRAVITATIONAL PULL AT 1G FOR US.

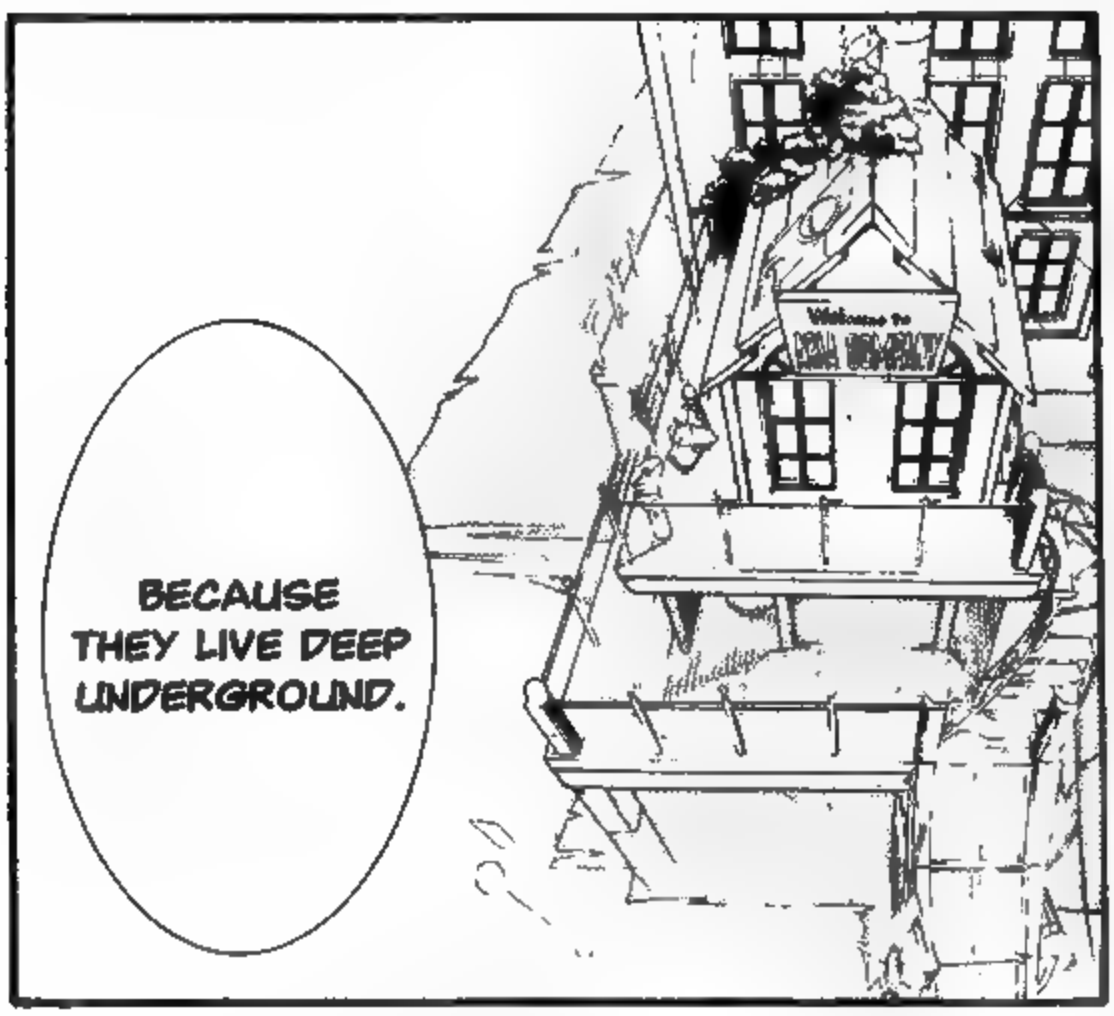
THE GRAVITY ON AQUA IS ONE **THIRD** THAT OF MAN HOME'S.

BUT, I DON'T FEEL ANYTHING AT ALL!

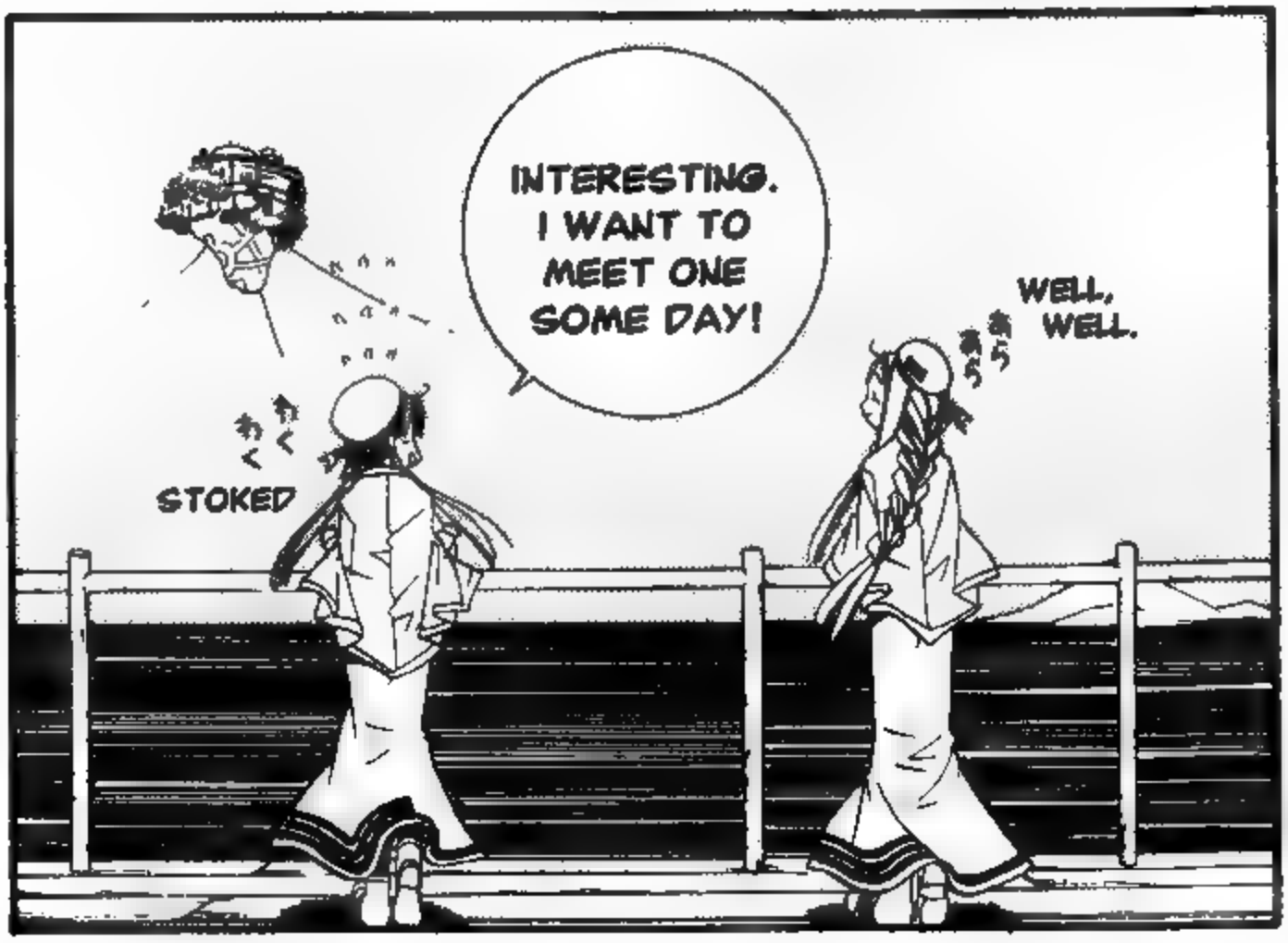
OR AM I JUST A THICKIE?

HEH HEH.


UMM...
I ONLY SEE THEM WHEN THEY'RE IN TOWN, SHOPPING FOR GROCERIES.
WOW!
HAVE YOU MET ONE BEFORE, MISS ALICIA?


BECAUSE THEY LIVE DEEP UNDERGROUND.

SO, YOU DON'T SEE THEM VERY OFTEN?
THAT'S RIGHT.


INTERESTING. I WANT TO MEET ONE SOME DAY!
わくわく
STOKED
WELL, WELL.
あらあら

SWSSHH

MARCH そろそろ

WHAT IS...?

WAIT, GNOMES?!

YEAH. IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I'VE SEEN ONE.

GNOMES, HUH?

NO

WHAT'S THE MATTER, AIKA?

THOSE ARE GNOMES.

THEIR CLOTHES ARE DUSTY, AS USUAL...

WOW...

ONE, TWO おいっちに

おいっちに ONE, TWO

WALK LIVELY, EVERYONE!

SO THEY'RE GNOMES?

よろ WOBBLE

ポスー THWUMP

WOBBLE よろ

WOBBLE よろ

TOTTER

UH-OH!

PHEEW

NO SPACE LEFT TO SIT.

...

SWSSHH

ARE YOU OKAY?

HEH HEH HEH

YES, THANKS. I DON'T GET OUT IN THE SUN MUCH.

IT'S SO BRIGHT THAT I GOT A LITTLE DIZZY.

AAH, HOW EMBAR-RASSING!

IF I TRY AND GET INTO THE BOAT, IT'LL SINK FOR SURE!

I THINK I WENT A LITTLE OVERBOARD WITH THE SHOPPING.

I CAN TAKE YOU ON MY BOAT.

HUH?

WHAT?

NO, YOU WON'T.

GUESS I'LL HAVE TO RETURN SOME...

AKARI! WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

キラーン SPARKLE

PLEASE, LET ME TAKE YOU HOME!

STOKED

わくわく

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

SORRY FOR THE TROUBLE.

ARE YOU **REALLY** GOING THERE, AKARI?

AND WHY AM I GOING, TOO?

OF COURSE!

SO THIS IS THE ENTRANCE TO THE **UNDERGROUND WORLD**?

YES. "UNDERGROUND WORLD?"

IT, UH, IT'S AN "EXPEDITION"?

BA-DUMP GRIN

ドキニコ

WELL THEN! WE'RE OFF ON OUR **EXPEDITION** TO THE UNDERGROUND WORLD!

WHA-

SHOCK!!

I'M TELLING MISS ALICIA!

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE SLACKING ON YOUR PRACTICE AGAIN.

MUTTER

ISN'T THIS EXCITING, AIKA?

GRIN

GRIN

NOT... AT... ALL.

B-BUT AREN'T YOU INTERESTED IN THE UNDER-GROUND WORLD AT ALL?

IT WAS MY FAULT TO BEGIN WITH.

PRETTY YOUNG LADIES LIKE YOU SHOULDN'T ARGUE.

LET'S ALL GET ALONG. PLEASE?

WAAUGH

I HAVE ZERO INTEREST IN IT.

COME ON, YOU TWO.

FOR A BOY, HE SOUNDS MORE LIKE AN OLD MAN...

WHOOPEE! FOOD!

GRIN

PAT

SAY! WHEN WE GET THERE,

WHY DON'T I TAKE BOTH OF YOU OUT TO EAT?

PLEASE, ON BEHALF OF THE GNOMES, ALLOW ME TO TREAT YOU BOTH!

ぺこり BOW

NICE TO MEET YOU!

I'M AKARI. I'M AN UNDINE!

THAT'S AIKA, AND THAT'S PRESIDENT ARIA.

NYU.

OH, I HAVEN'T YET INTRODUCED MYSELF. MY NAME'S AL. I'M A GNOME.

...

YES!

NO WONDER YOU WERE SO EXCITED.

I SEE.

SO, YOU'RE INTERESTED IN WHAT WE GNOMES DO.

BA-THMP

BA-THMP

LET'S GO!

CREAAK

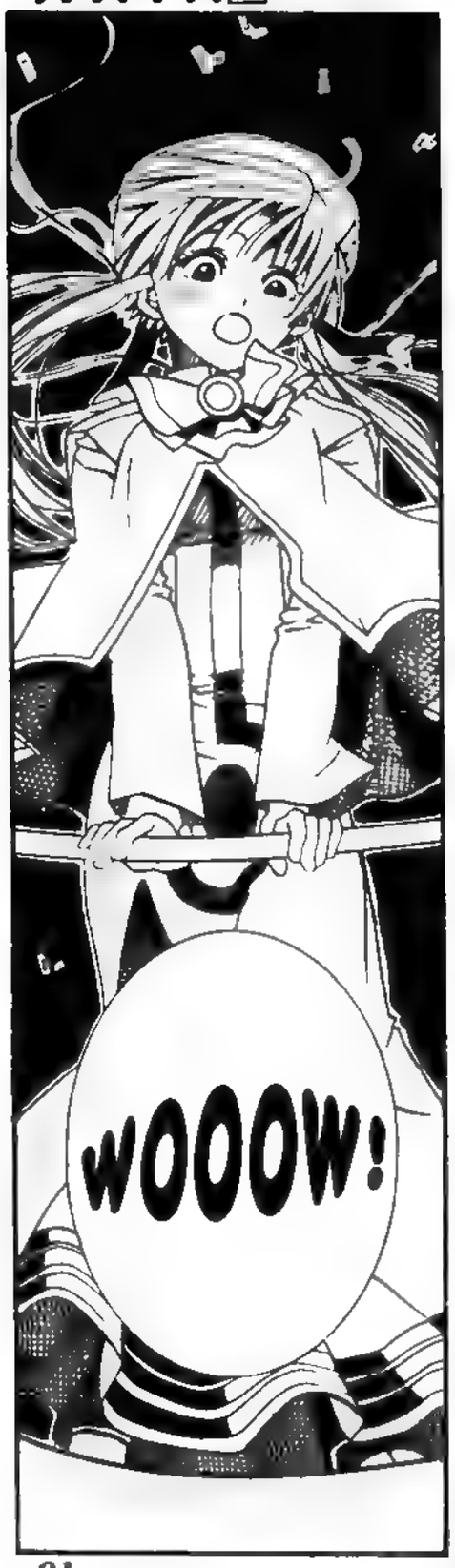
WHY DON'T I SHOW YOU WHERE I WORK, THEN?

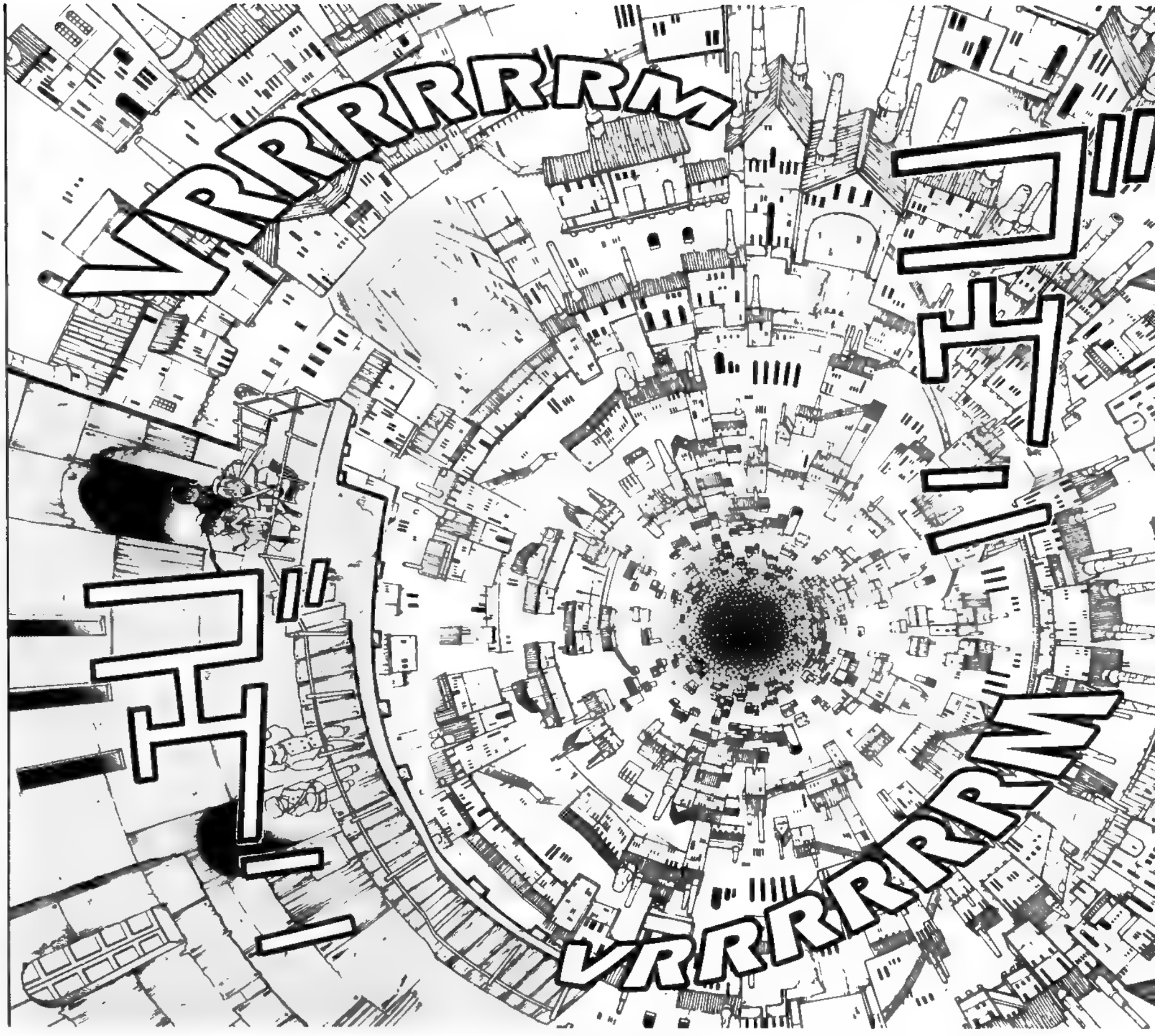
POSTAL

WHOOOPEE!

WHOOOSHHH

!


WOOOW!


VRRRRRRM
VRRRRRRM

THERE'S NO RUSH. LET'S TAKE OUR TIME, SHALL WE?

STOKED

SHOCKED

WHAT? YOU MEAN WE'RE GOING TO WALK THERE?!

I CAN'T EVEN SEE THE BOTTOM!

IT'S AMAZING.

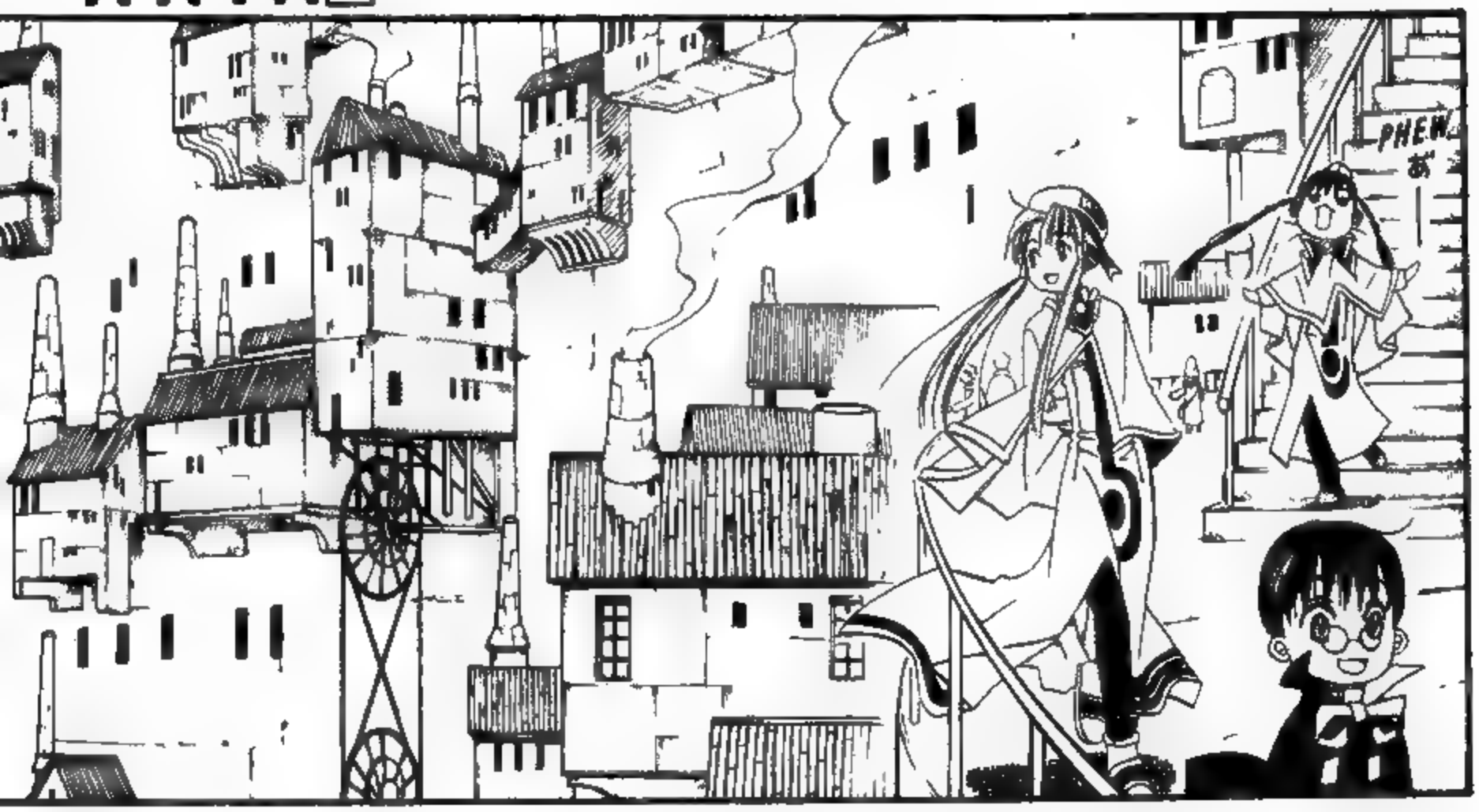
THIS UNDERGROUND CHAMBER IS HUGE!

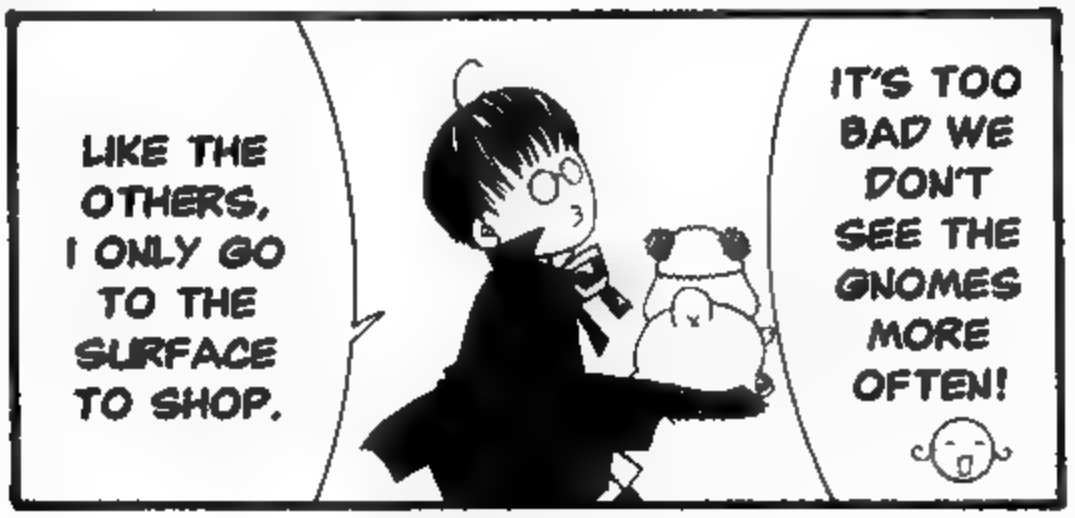
ヒュオオオ

FWOOOO

BY THE WAY,

THE GNOMES WORK AT THE LOWEST LEVEL.

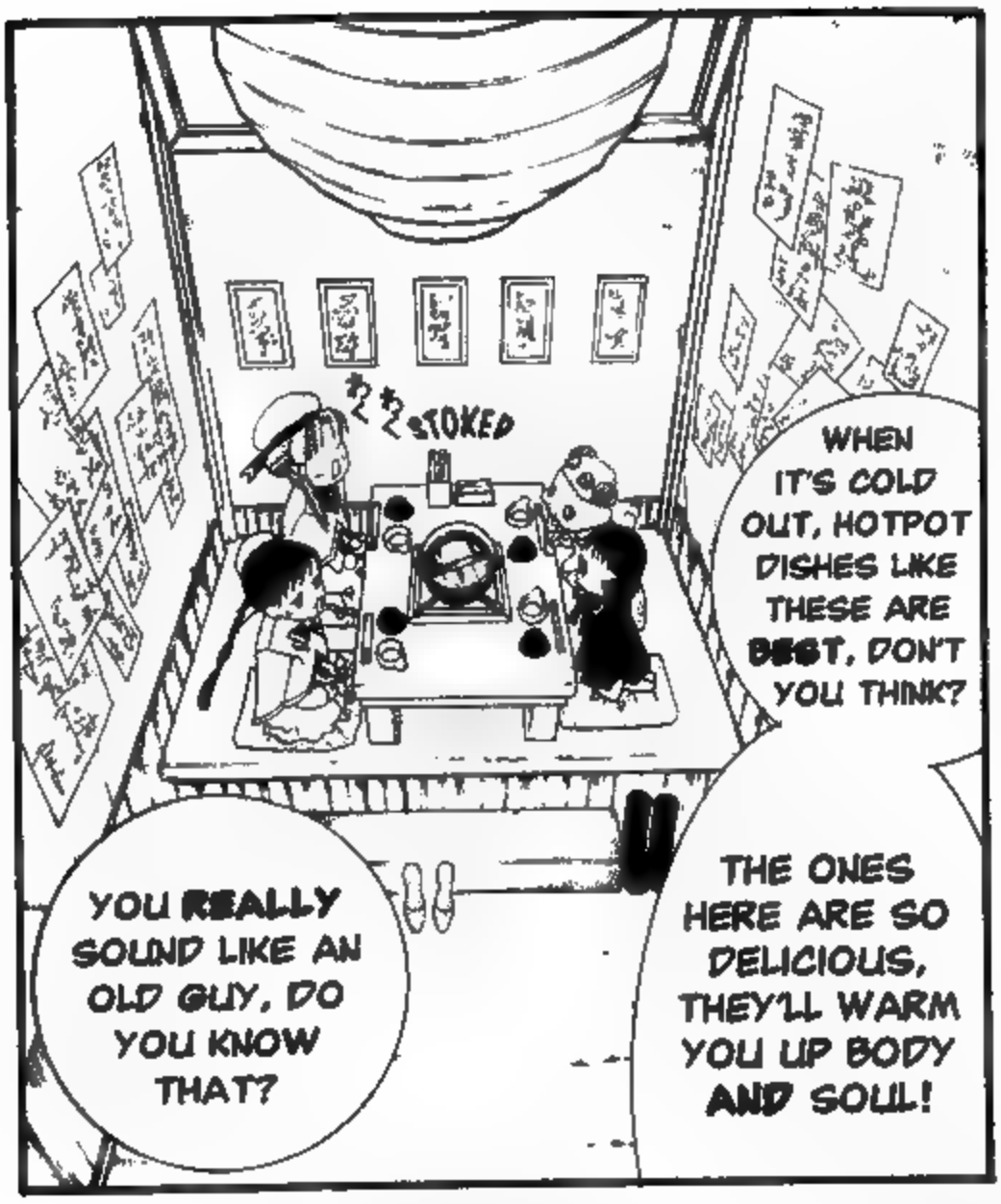

PHEW


LIKE THE OTHERS, I ONLY GO TO THE SURFACE TO SHOP.
IT'S TOO BAD WE DON'T SEE THE GNOMES MORE OFTEN!

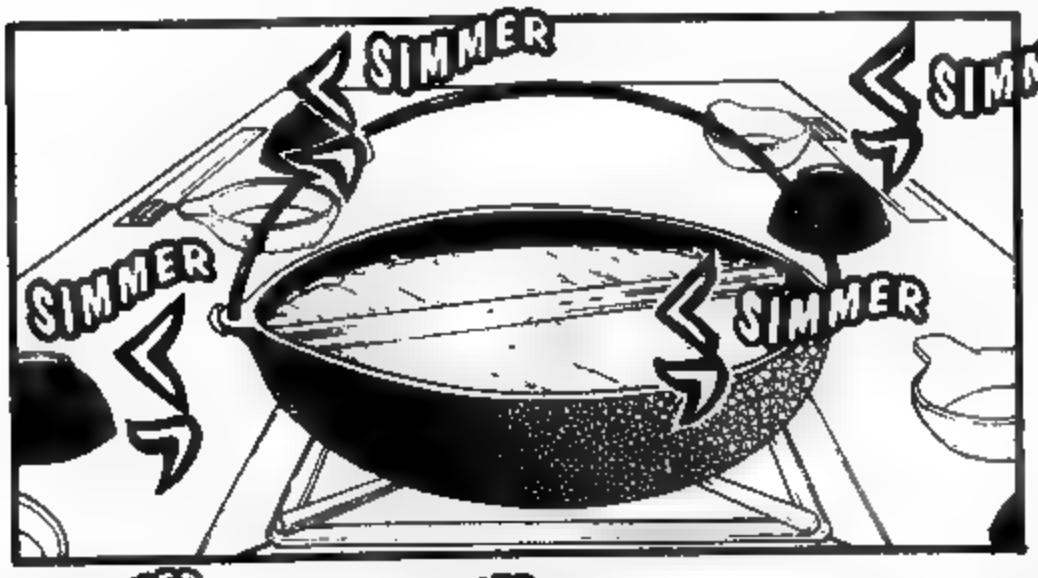
HE SOUNDS LIKE AN OLD MAN AGAIN...
THAT'S JUST THE WAY THINGS ARE.
SO CLOSE, BUT SO FAR AWAY.

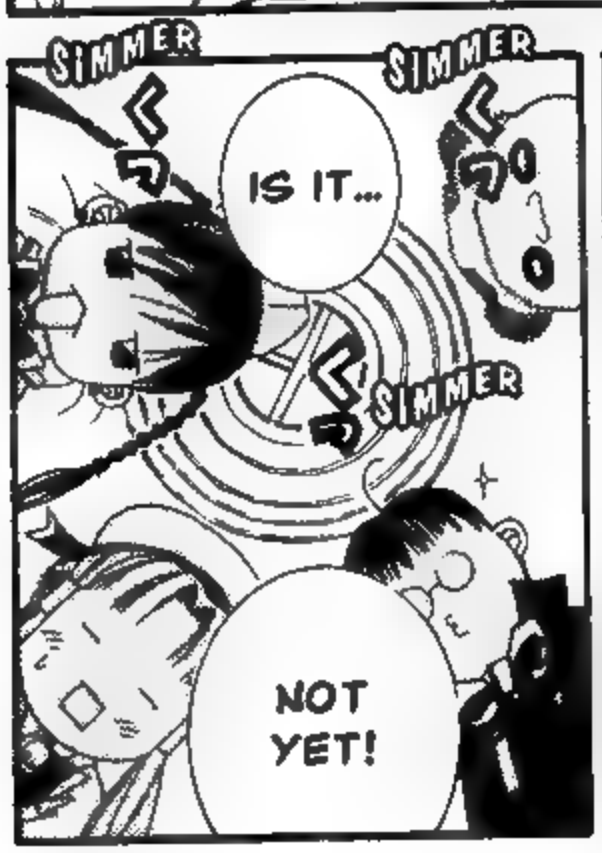
THAT'S TRUE.
GRIN
GRIN
BUT, WE'RE NOT REALLY THAT FAR AWAY, HUH?

I CAN'T BELIEVE SUCH A BEAUTIFUL PLACE EXISTS UNDERGROUND.
MMMM... SO NICE!
IT'S AMAZING!


STOKED
WHEN IT'S COLD OUT, HOTPOT DISHES LIKE THESE ARE BEST, DON'T YOU THINK?
YOU REALLY SOUND LIKE AN OLD GUY, DO YOU KNOW THAT?
THE ONES HERE ARE SO DELICIOUS, THEY'LL WARM YOU UP BODY AND SOUL!

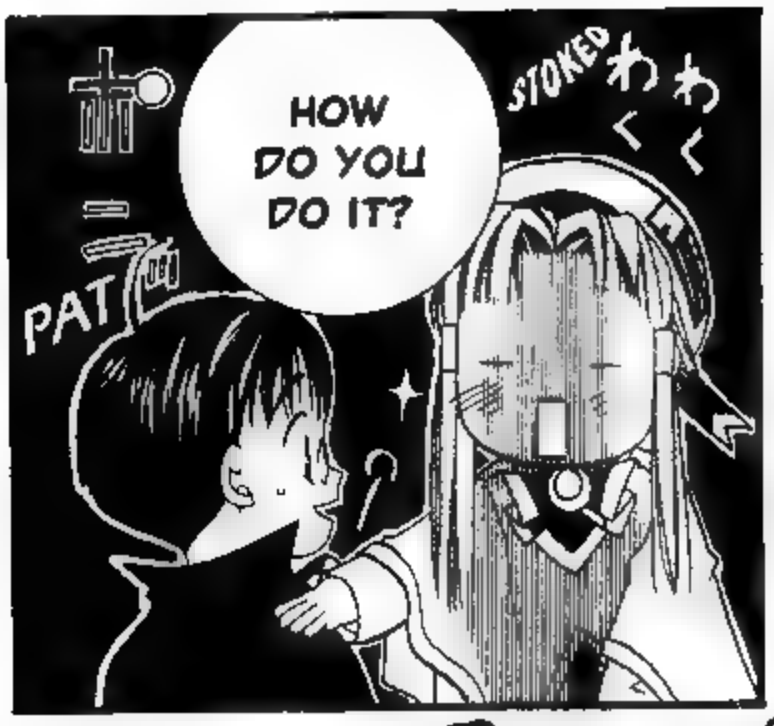
WHY DON'T WE STOP HERE TO EAT?
FAMOUS
MUSHROOM
HOTPOT
YAAAY!

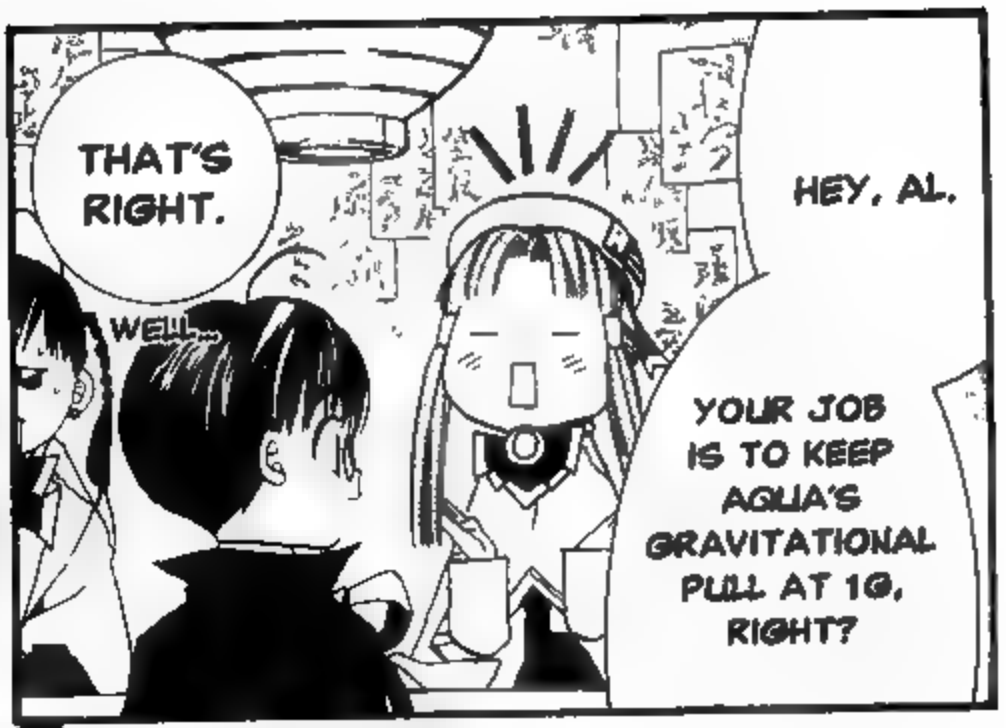

SIMMER
SIMMER
SIMMER
SIMMER


SIMMER
SIMMER
IS IT...
SIMMER
NOT YET!

SIMMER
SIMMER
SIMMER
SIMMER

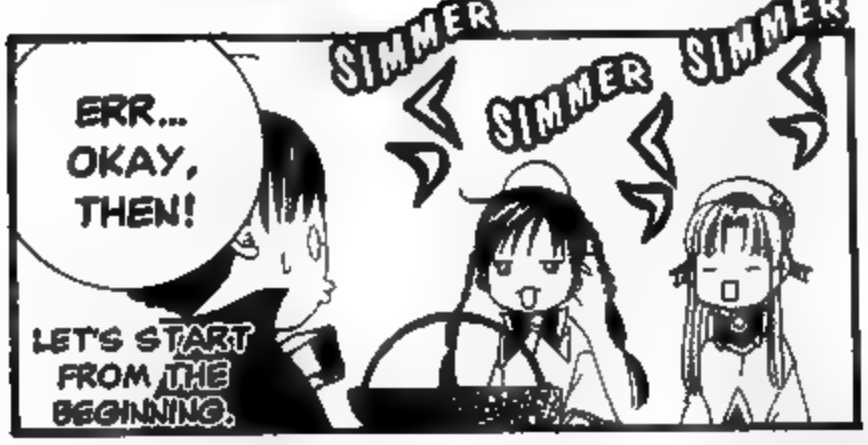
SIMMER
SIMMER
IS IT DONE YET?
SIMMER
NO.


HOW DO YOU DO IT?
STOKED
わくわく
PAT


THAT'S RIGHT.
WELL...
HEY, AL.
YOUR JOB IS TO KEEP AQUA'S GRAVITATIONAL PULL AT 1G, RIGHT?

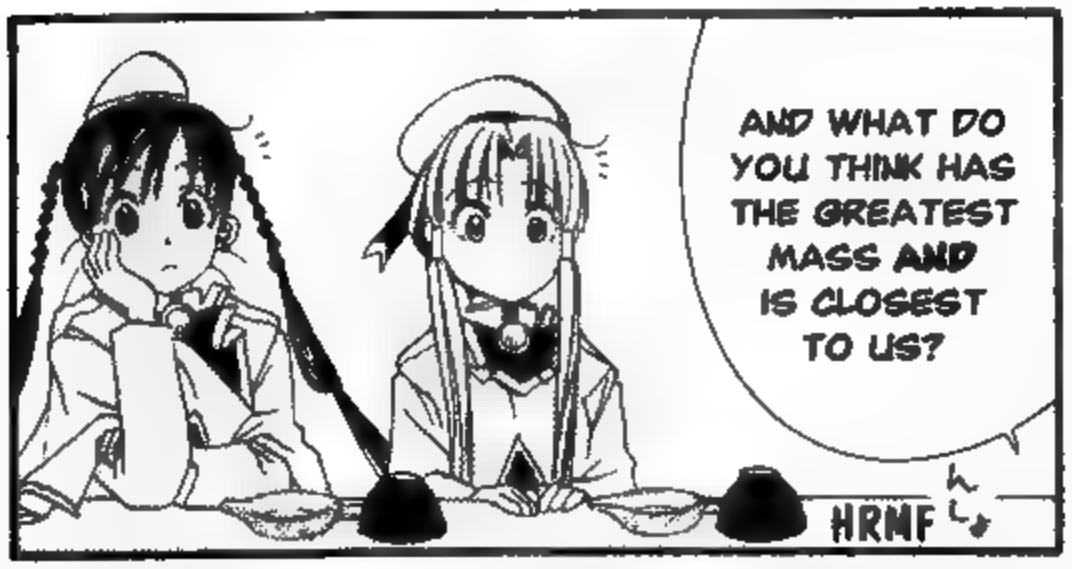
SIMMER
SIMMER
SIMMER

LET'S SEE...
YOU TWO UNDERSTAND HOW GRAVITY WORKS, RIGHT?

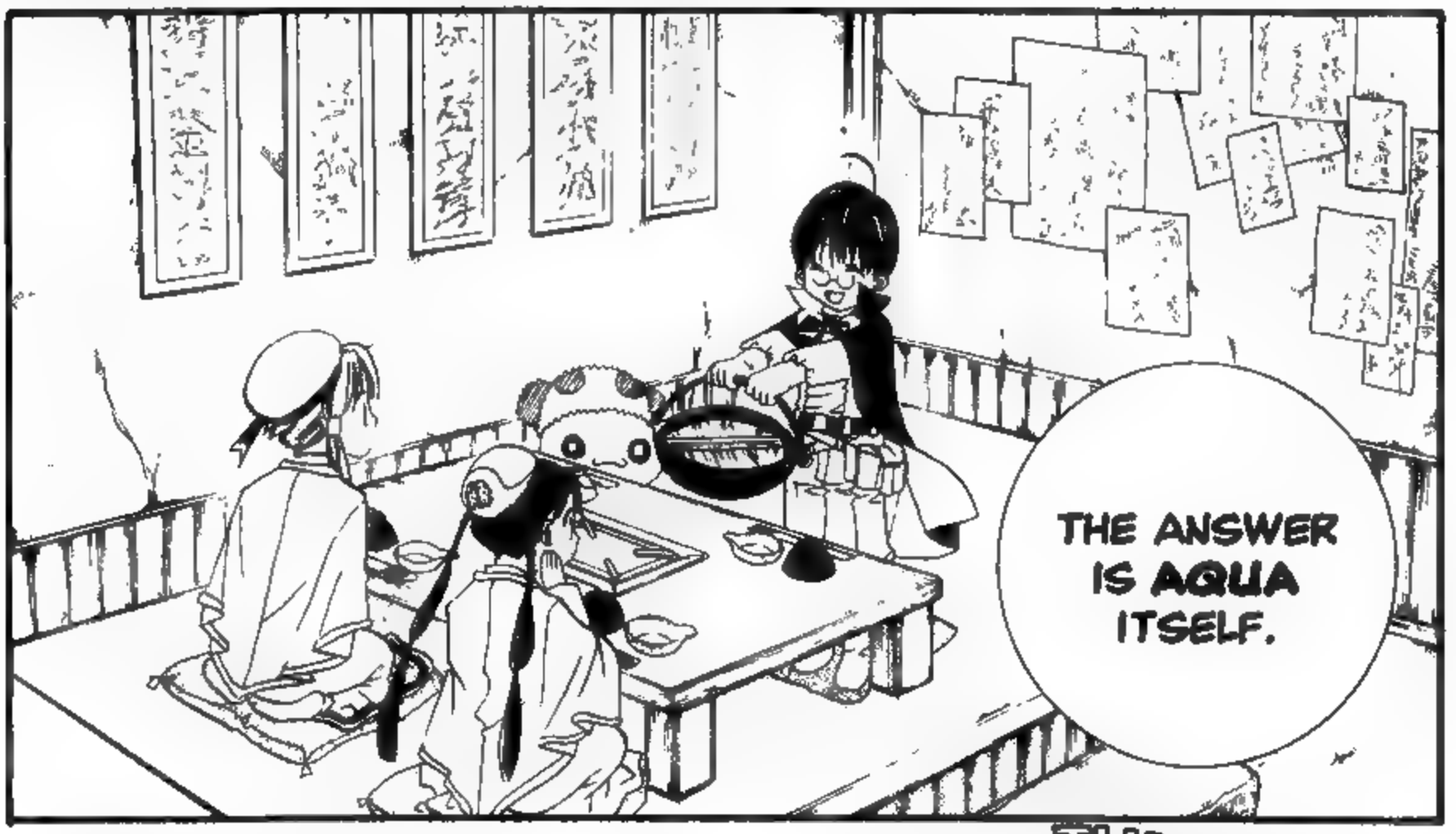

SIMMER
SIMMER
SIMMER
ERR... OKAY, THEN!
LET'S START FROM THE BEGINNING.

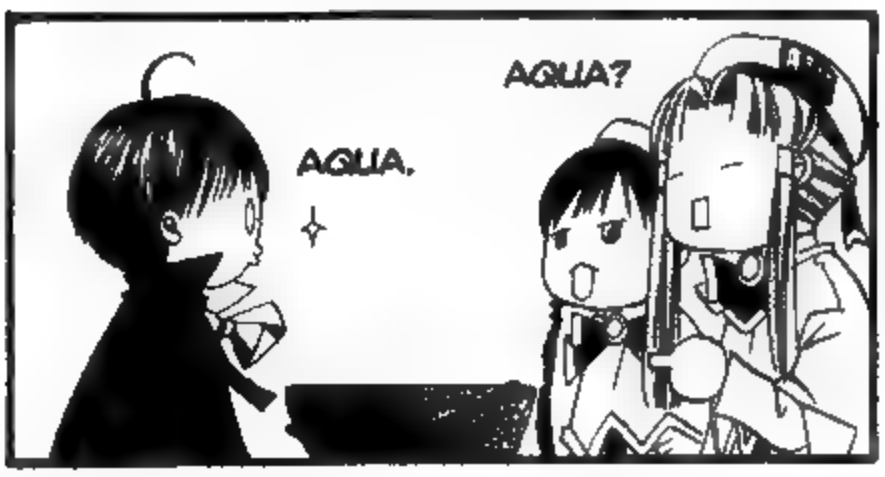
PUT SIMPLY, IT'S A FORCE OF ATTRACTION BETWEEN ONE OBJECT AND ANOTHER.
PLANETARY GRAVITY IS A COMBINATION OF UNIVERSAL GRAVITY AND CENTRIPETAL FORCE CREATED BY THE PLANET'S ROTATION.

P-TNK
THE GREATER AN OBJECT'S MASS, THE GREATER THE ATTRACTING FORCE.


AND WHAT DO YOU THINK HAS THE GREATEST MASS AND IS CLOSEST TO US?
HRMF

THIS "ATTRACTING FORCE" EXISTS BETWEEN ALL OBJECTS.
SIMMER
SIMMER
BETWEEN EACH OF US, EVEN BETWEEN THESE MUSHROOMS.


THE ANSWER IS AQUA ITSELF.


AQUA?
AQUA.

THINK
HRMF

LOOKS LIKE IT'S READY!

わーい YAAAY! LI

LET'S EAT! いただきまーす

DO YOU UNDERSTAND?

SO, THIS ATTRACTING FORCE EXISTS BETWEEN AQUA AND EVERYTHING ELSE ON IT, INCLUDING US.

THAT'S GRAVITY!

MUNCH MUNCH HUFF HUFF

...

MUNCH MUNCH HUFF HUFF

SPECIFICALLY, OUR JOB IS TO....

GOOD IDEA.

THIS IS DELICIOUS!

MUSHROOM HOTPOT

WELL. I GUESS I CAN EXPLAIN LATER.

YOU'RE VERY WELCOME!

THANK YOU! THAT WAS WONDERFUL!

WELL THEN...

BURRP

I GUESS WE'LL HAVE TO USE THE ELEVATOR.

I GIVE UP!

...

WE'RE GOING DOWN MORE?

THAT'S RIGHT.

OF COURSE.

THERE'S... AN ELEVATOR?

GRRR

WHY DO YOU TALK LIKE SUCH AN OLD MAN?!

WALKING DOES YOUNG PEOPLE LIKE US GOOD! IT'S GREAT EXERCISE.

WHY DIDN'T YOU MENTION THIS EARLIER?

PSSHHHH

RATTLE

OH. LOOKS LIKE WERE HERE.

RATTLE

CLINK-CLINK

...

CLINK-CLINK

CLINK-CLINK

THIS IS WHERE THE GNOMES WORK.

SO MANY PIPES...

IT'S SO DARK.

WARRR

WHAT'S THIS?

カチャ SHRPKK

カチャ SHRPKK

WELCOME TO THE DEEPEST PART OF AQUA!

カチ CLANG!

EACH STONE HAS A TREMENDOUS AMOUNT OF MASS.

WHOA.

THEY LOOK LIKE GUMBALLS.

THEY'RE CALLED **GRAVITY STONES**. THEY WERE DEVELOPED WHEN HUMANS FIRST COLONIZED AQUA.

AQUA'S CORE IS COVERED BY A NETWORK OF COUNTLESS PIPES.

CORE
MANTLE
CRUST

WE SEND THEM DOWN TO THE **HEART** OF AQUA IN LARGE QUANTITIES.

HOW EXACTLY DO YOU "SEND" THEM?

THE GNOMES' JOB IS TO CONTROL THE PIPES AND THE GRAVITY STONES.

WE MULTIPLY THE ENERGY MASS BY APPLYING THE SPECIAL THEORY OF RELATIVITY.

I SEE.

WE CIRCULATE LARGE AMOUNTS OF THE STONES THROUGH THOSE PIPES AT VERY HIGH SPEEDS.

THAT'S WHAT ENABLES US TO MAINTAIN AQUA'S GRAVITATIONAL PULL AT 1G, THE SAME AS ON MAN HOME.

OH, THANK YOU!

HERE ARE THE SWEETS YOU ASKED FOR.

BOW ペコリ

THEY WANTED TO SEE WHERE WE WORK.

HMM? WHO ARE THESE YOUNG LADIES?

CRUNCH ﾊﾑﾊﾑ

CRUNCH ﾎﾟﾘﾎﾟﾘ

HUMPH...

GRANDPA APA, WOULD YOU MIND SHOWING THEM WHAT WE DO HERE?

GRANDPA APA!

UMM?

POINT びしっ

CRUNCH ﾊﾑﾊﾑ

I'M BUSY EATIN'.

CRUNCH ﾊﾑﾊﾑ

A-ARE YOU SURE?

YOU GO AHEAD AND DO IT.

TAP
ARE YOU READY?

CLONK
CLINK

KLANG
KA-CLINK

CLANG

CLINK

CLOTTI

CLINK

KER-CLINK

KER-CLANG

CLONK

CLINK

CLONK

WHAT A STRANGE SOUND...

THAT'S RIGHT!

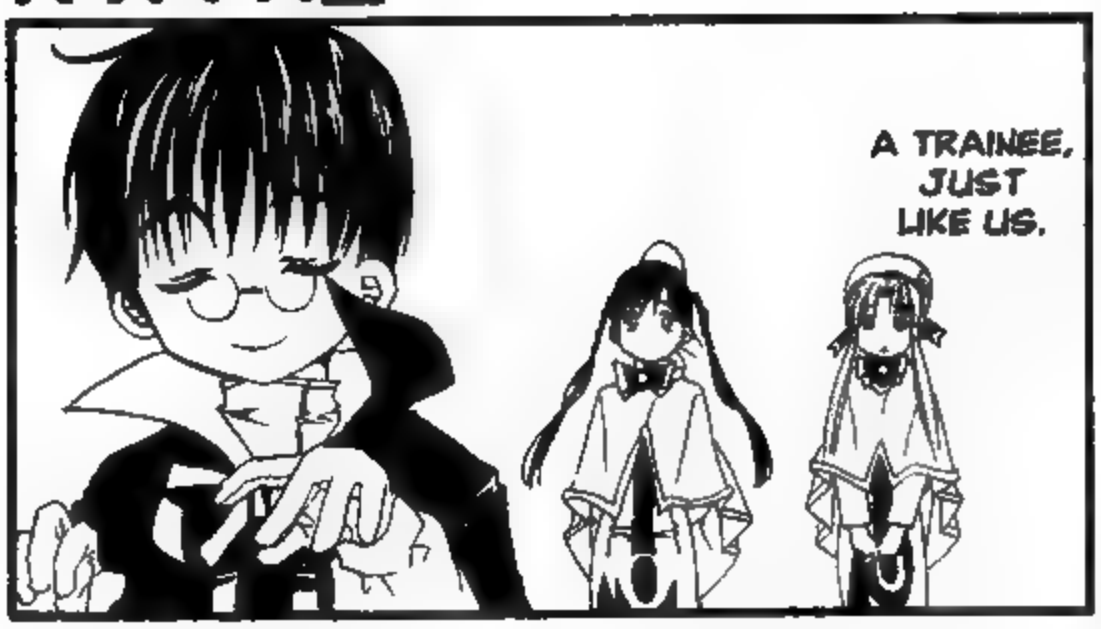
YOU CONTROL THEM WITH THAT ORGAN-LOOKING THING?

THAT'S THE GRAVITY STONES RUNNING THROUGH THE PIPES.

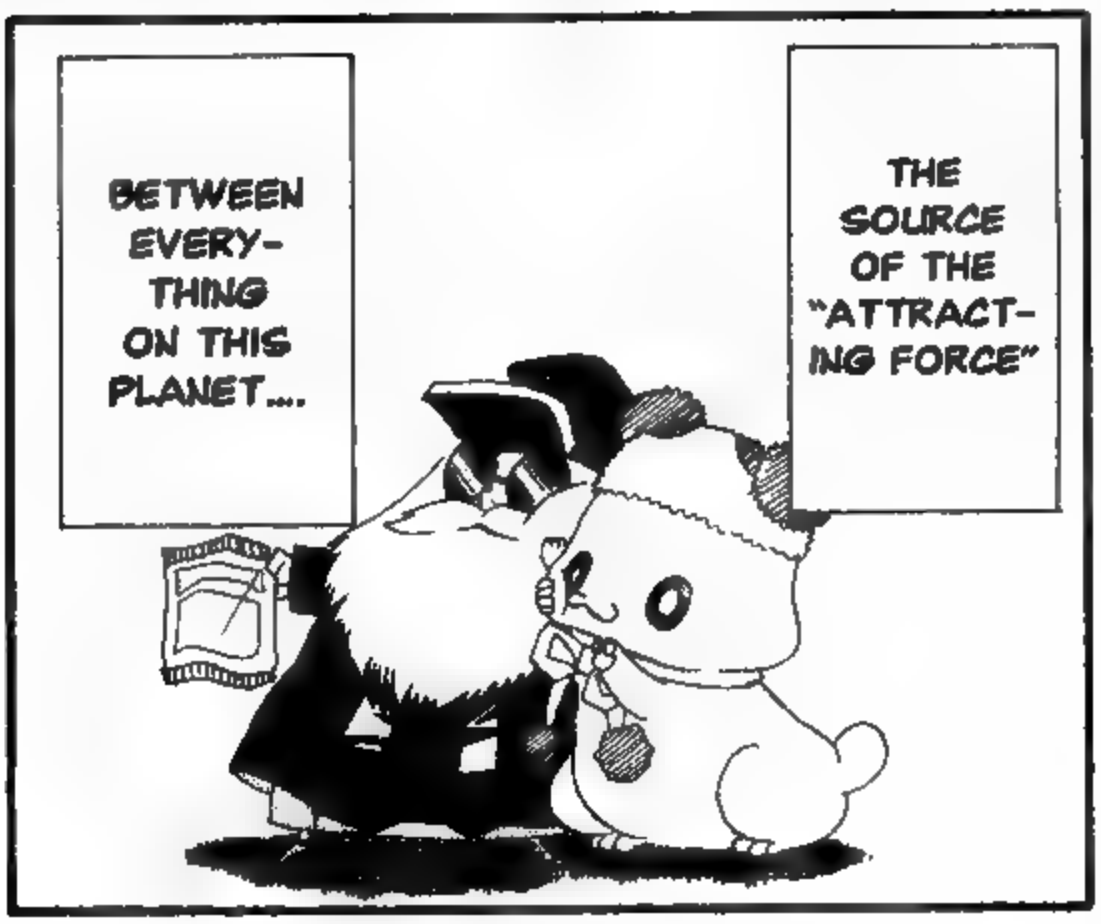
THE BETTER THE GNOME'S TECHNIQUE, THE MORE GRAVITY STONES HE CAN CONTROL AT ONE TIME.

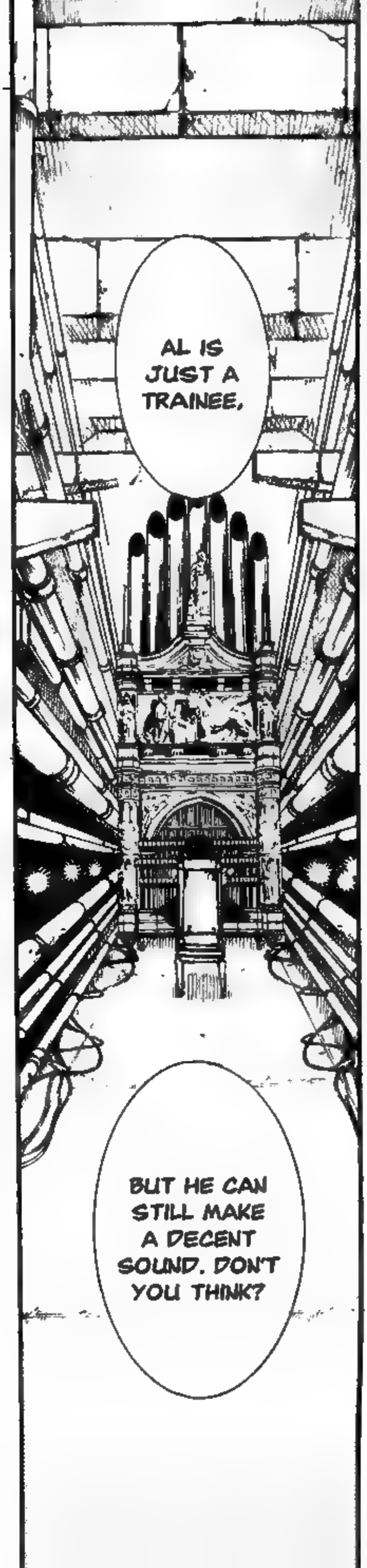
EACH OF THE KEYS ON THIS CENTRAL TERMINAL

IS A SWITCH FOR ONE OF THE PIPE VALVES.


A TRAINEE, JUST LIKE US.

SUCH A STRANGE SOUND... SO CLEAR AND UNIQUE.


BETWEEN EVERY-THING ON THIS PLANET....
THE SOURCE OF THE "ATTRACT-ING FORCE"


AL IS JUST A TRAINEE,
BUT HE CAN STILL MAKE A DECENT SOUND. DON'T YOU THINK?

SOUNDED ALMOST LIKE AQUA WAS MANIPULATING THE VOICES OF THE STARS THEMSELVES.

SWSSHH

I'M NOT SURE I LIKE YOU ACTING LIKE SUCH AN OLD GUY, THOUGH.

YOU TOOK US TO A NICE RESTAURANT, TOO!

WELL, I WASN'T REALLY **TOO** INTERESTED IN ALL THIS,

BUT I GUESS OUR "EXPEDITION" WASN'T AS BAD AS I THOUGHT IT'D BE.

AHAHAHA

SHE CALLED ME AN "OLD GUY" AGAIN.

PLEASE, THINK NOTHING OF IT.

BOW

BOW

BOW

THANK YOU FOR EVERY-THING.

...

AREN'T YOU GOING TO SAY "THANK YOU," AIKA?

THAT TALK YOU GAVE US...

ABOUT THE "ATTRACTING FORCE" WAS... PRETTY INTERESTING.

ANYWAY,

WHO KNOWS.

MAYBE THAT FORCE IS WHAT BROUGHT US TOGETHER LIKE THIS.

OOPS!

...

STARE

ANYWAY.

AHEM!

WAUGH!

TACKY COMMENTS ARE PROHIBITED!

SHE GOT ME!

WAHAHAHA

GRIN GRIN GRIN

NO, SCRATCH THAT! I NEVER SAID IT!

WHAT WAS I THINKING?

PAT

YOU'VE JUST GOT ANOTHER REASON FOR GOING ABOVE-GROUND-

SO COME VISIT US ONCE IN A WHILE. OKAY?

...

NEXT TIME, WE'LL SHOW **YOU** AROUND THE **SURFACE.**

PAT

AIKA MIGHT **ACT** LIKE SHE DIDN'T CARE,

BUT I CAN TELL SHE WAS **FASCINATED** BY THE UNDERGROUND WORLD.

OKAY!

OF COURSE, I WAS FASCINATED, TOO.

THERE ARE STILL SO MANY THINGS I DON'T KNOW ABOUT AQUA.

SHOCK!

OH NO! THE WHOLE TIME, I WAS TALKING TO HIM LIKE HE WAS A **KID**!

HE'S OLDER THAN US?!

DID YOU KNOW AL IS **NINETEEN** YEARS OLD?! HE TOLD ME RIGHT BEFORE WE SAID GOODBYE.

I GUESS GNOMES ARE JUST SMALL.

AND I EVEN PATTED HIS HEAD!

NINETEEN...
THAT'S
THREE YEARS
OLDER
THAN ME!

YUM
YUM
IT'S JUST NOT NEW YEAR'S WITHOUT SOBA!

IT'S SUNNY, BUT ALSO SNOWING A LITTLE BIT.

HOW ARE YOU?

MONTH 24

TODAY IS 24/31. NEW YEAR'S EVE.

NEW YEAR'S EVE ON AQUA.

THIS IS MY FIRST...

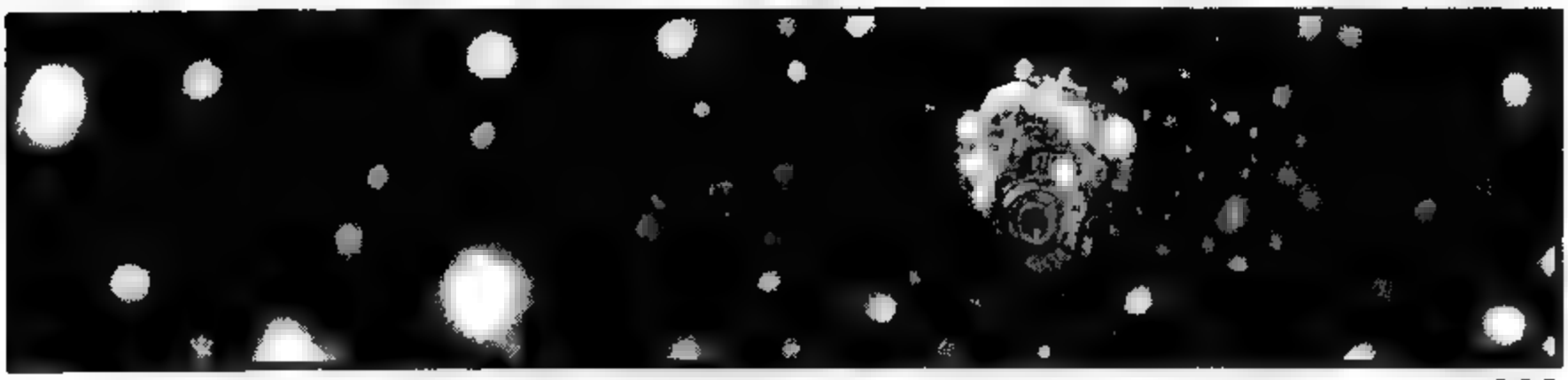
Navigation09

AUGURI BUON ANNO

CREAK

BUT AT THE SAME TIME, THEY'VE ALSO SEEMED QUITE SHORT.
EACH OF THE SEASONS I'VE SPENT HERE ON AQUA HAVE SEEMED LONG...

EVERY DAY HERE HAS BEEN WONDERFUL. LIKE A GLITTERING JEWEL...



IT WAS NORMAL TO SPEND CHRISTMAS WITH MY FRIENDS AND NEW YEAR'S EVE WITH MY FAMILY.

WHEN I WAS LIVING IN JAPAN,

KER-CLACK

SURE IS COLD OUT THERE.

PEOPLE SPEND CHRISTMAS WITH THEIR FAMILIES AND NEW YEAR'S EVE WITH THEIR FRIENDS.

BUT IT'S THE **OPPOSITE** HERE IN NEO-VENEZIA.

SO, I'M SPENDING NEW YEAR'S EVE WITH MY FRIENDS!

SWSSHH

NYU.

NYU.

HOW DID YOU SPEND NEW YEAR'S EVE ON MAN HOME, AKARI?

LET'S SEE...

AND JUST RELAX UNDER THE *KOTATSU* UNTIL MIDNIGHT. ♡

WELL, WELL.

I WOULD EAT SOBA,

LISTEN TO THE TEMPLE BELLS,

SKSH

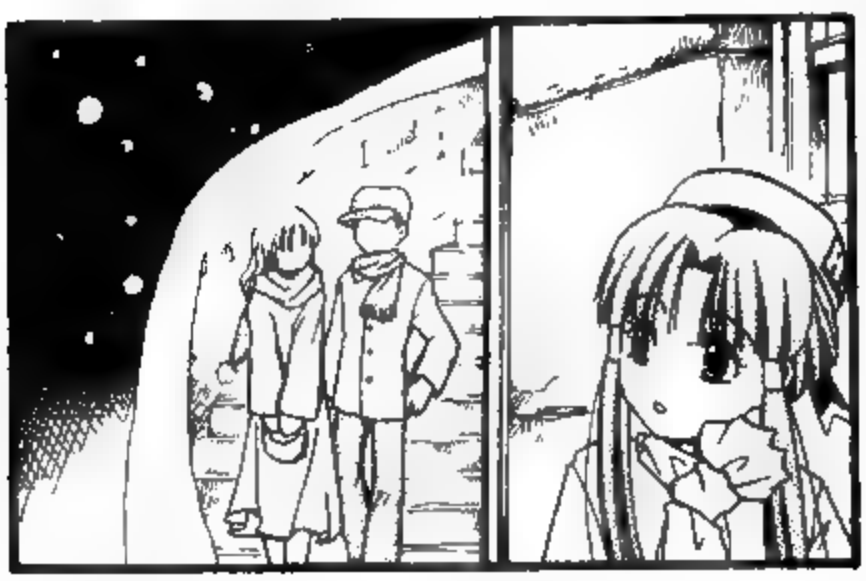
SKSH

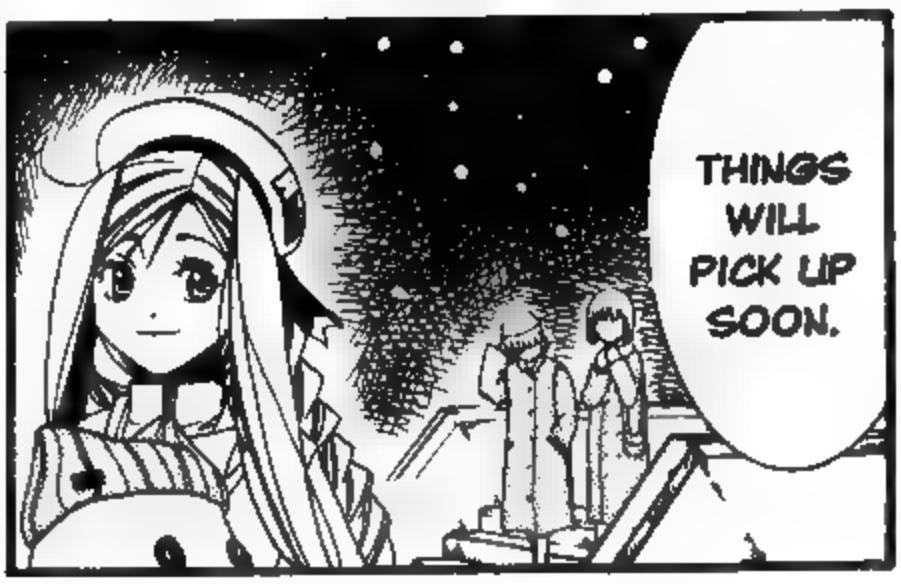
HAAAAAAAH

SKSH
SKSH
SKSH

SKSH

IT'S SO QUIET...




THINGS WILL PICK UP SOON.

HERE IN NEO-VENEZIA,

EVERYONE GETS TOGETHER IN SAINT MARK'S SQUARE ON NEW YEAR'S EVE.

THE MAIN EVENT IS THE COUNT-DOWN TO MIDNIGHT.

AFTER THAT,

PEOPLE CELEBRATE THE NEW YEAR BY **PARTYING** ALL THE WAY 'TIL DAWN.

SO-WHEN-THEY-GO HOME THE NEXT MORNING, THEY'RE PRACTICALLY ZOMBIES.

IT'S ONE BIG, WILD PARTY.

HA HA.

LOOK OVER THERE.

OH! THEY'RE FIRE-CRACKERS, RIGHT?

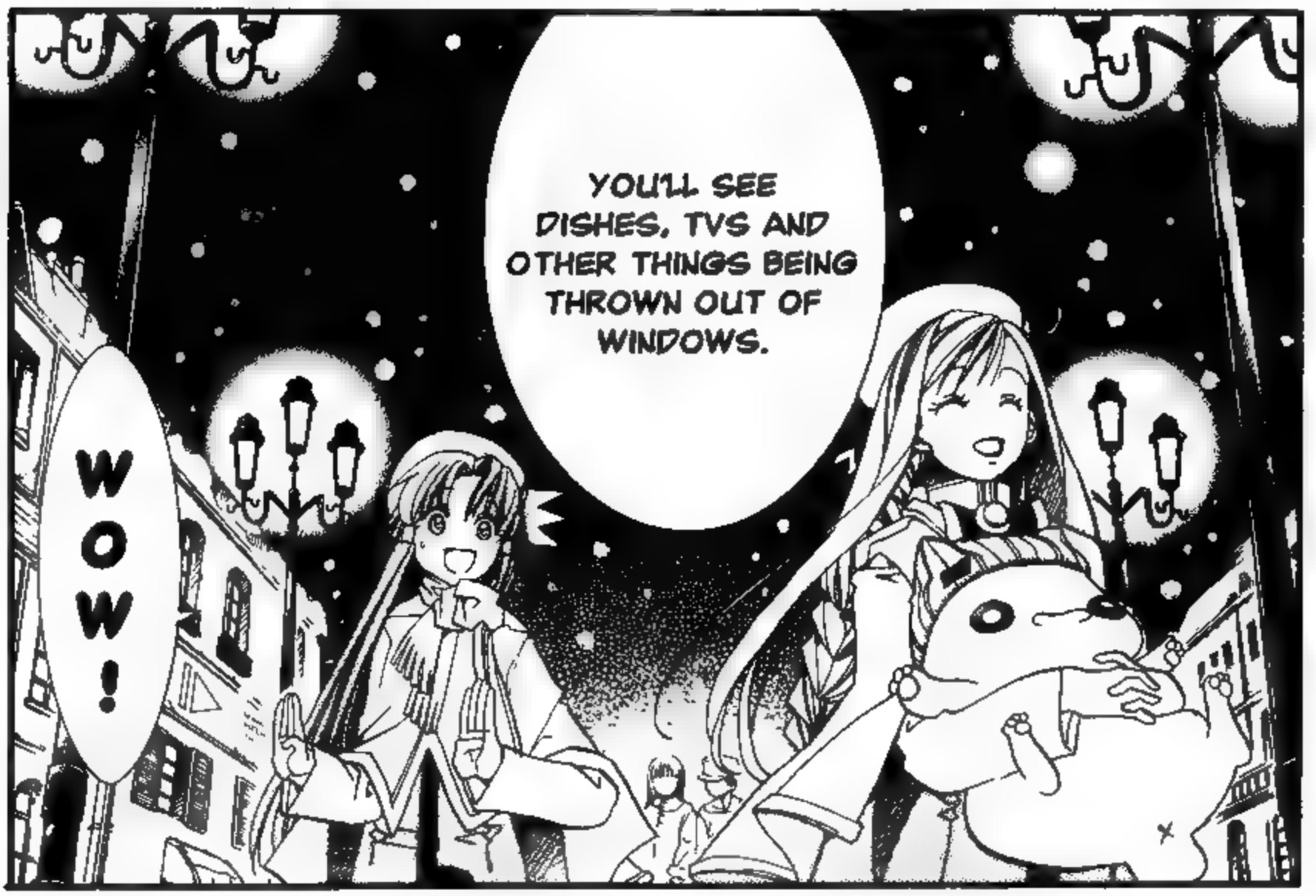
THAT'S RIGHT. COME MIDNIGHT, PEOPLE WILL BE SETTING OFF A WHOLE **LOT** OF THEM.

AS WELL AS OTHER FIREWORKS. SO TRY TO BE CAREFUL, ALRIGHT?

IS THAT CHINESE-STYLE?
WOW... HOW WILD!

SOME-THING?
THROWS...
REALLY?
THAT'S RIGHT.

IS THAT AT THE STROKE OF MID-NIGHT,
EVERYONE THROWS SOMETHING.
ANOTHER THING ABOUT NEW YEAR'S EVE IN NEO-VENEZIA...


YOU'LL SEE DISHES, TVS AND OTHER THINGS BEING THROWN OUT OF WINDOWS.
WOW!

LONG AGO IN ITALY, THERE WAS A CUSTOM OF THROWING OUT OLD POSSESSIONS ON NEW YEAR'S EVE.

IT WAS SO THAT PEOPLE COULD FORGET THE **BAD THINGS** THAT'D HAPPENED THAT YEAR.

WOW!

WHY WOULD THEY DO SOMETHING SO CRAZY?

HEH HEH HEH.

THAT'S RIGHT. IT WAS BROUGHT **HERE**, WHERE IT CONTINUES TO THIS DAY.

SO, THAT CUSTOM WENT FROM ITALY TO...

WHOA...

WAUGH!

IT'S HANGING OUT THE WINDOW!

LOOK UP THERE.

WOW...

YOU SAY IT LIKE IT'S NOTHING.

THAT'S THE RULE. ♡

SO IF YOU VALUE YOUR LIFE, STAY AWAY FROM THE BUILDINGS FOR A WHILE, ONCE IT TURNS MIDNIGHT.

YES. OF COURSE.

BUT I DIDN'T BRING ANYTHING TO THROW.

WAIT! THAT MEANS THAT I HAVE TO THROW SOMETHING TO CELEBRATE THE NEW YEAR?

FOR EXAM-PLE...

HEH HEH. YOU CAN THROW **ANYTHING** YOU'D USED THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

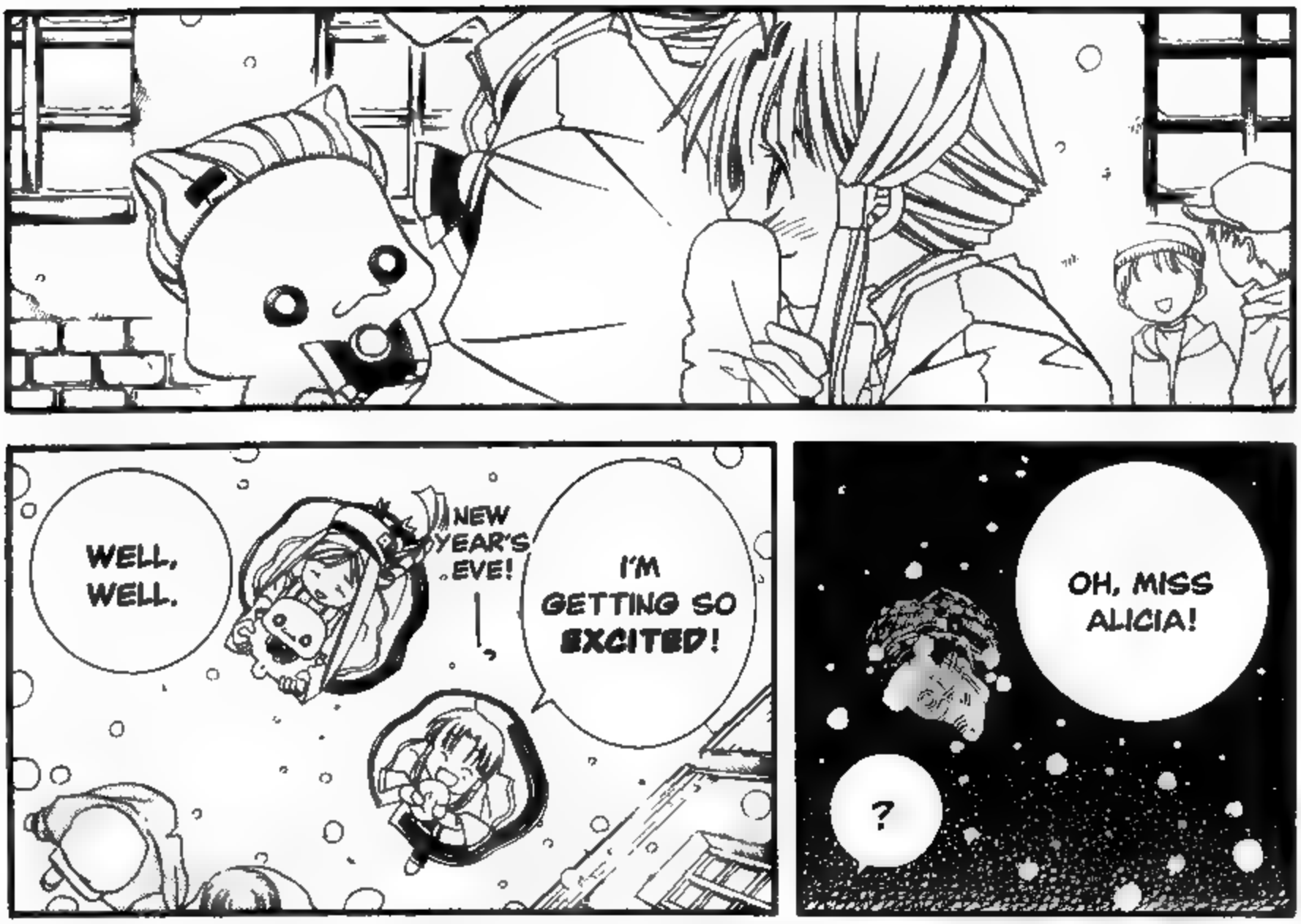
YUP.

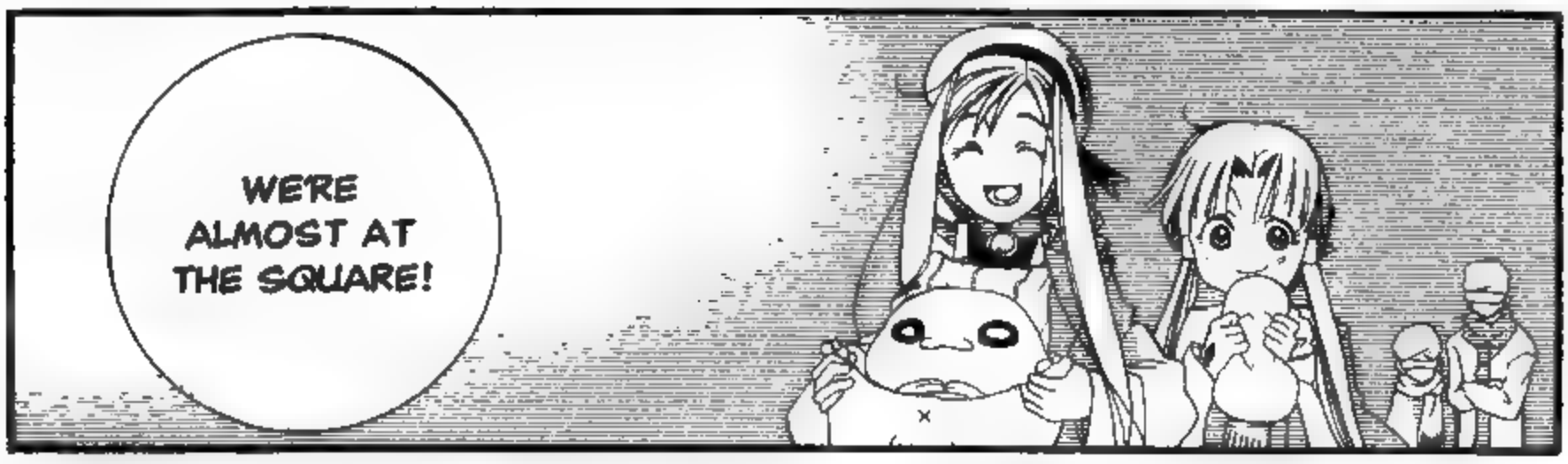
OH! **THAT'S** WHY YOU ASKED ME TO WEAR MY UNI-FORM!

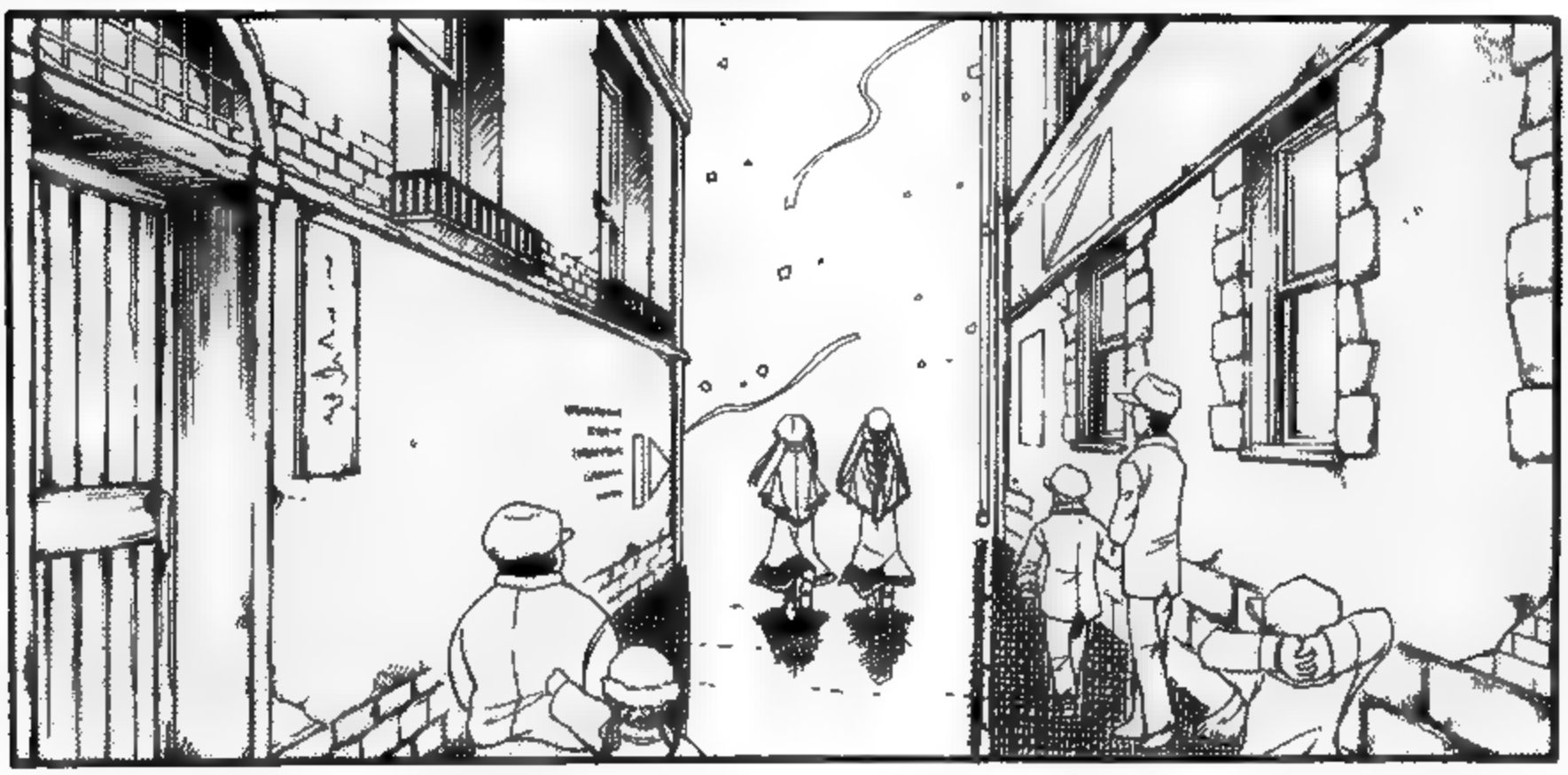
HM.

WELL, PEOPLE IN JAPAN THROW COINS INTO THE SHRINE'S **OFFERING BOX** AT MIDNIGHT...

WELL, WELL.


WELL, WELL.
NEW YEAR'S EVE!
I'M GETTING SO EXCITED!
OH, MISS ALICIA!
?


WE'RE ALMOST AT THE SQUARE!



AAAAAAA!
T
T!!!

WOOOOW!

WELL, WELL.

YAAAY!
わあーい♪

IT'S LIKE, "VIVA NEO-VENEZIA!"

HUH?

I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE HERE!

PHWOO

YEAH. I CAME WITH EVERYONE FROM HIMEYA.

SHWIP

AIKA?

HEY!

スタスタスタ

PULL

WHAT'S UP, PIGTAILS?

YOU STILL HAVE YOUR WONDERFUL PIGTAILS.

GLARE

GEEZ!

MY NAME IS NOT PIGTAILS!

ARE YOU BY YOURSELF, AKATSUKI?

WIGGLE WIGGLE

NO, I CAME WITH MY BROTHER. BUT I LOST HIM.

LOOM

IT'S BEEN A WHILE, MISS ALICIA.

OH. HELLO.

GYAAA!

YAY!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "OF COURSE"?

YOU MEAN YOU DON'T **KNOW**? MORON.

BEANS?

I'M NOT SHARING.

MUNCH もぐもぐ

WHAT ARE YOU EATING?

MUNCH もぐもぐ

BEANS, OF COURSE.

WOW! THERE ARE SO MANY BEAN DISHES!

LOOK, AKARI.

MORON!

?

SHOO ちゅ SHOO ちゅ

THE CUSTOM WAS PASSED ON HERE TO NEO-VENEZIA.

WOW... ほへー

SO, IT'S ALMOST LIKE JAPANESE PEOPLE EATING SOBA ON NEW YEAR'S EVE?

BEANS SYMBOLIZE WEALTH, SO PEOPLE EAT THEM, HOPING IT WILL BRING GOOD LUCK THE NEXT YEAR.

PEOPLE IN ITALY HAVE A CUSTOM OF EATING BEANS AT THE END OF THE YEAR.

OSHIRUKO HAS RED BEANS IN IT, SO THAT MAKES IT A BEAN DISH, TOO.

OSHIRUKO

HEY, AIKA. THERE'S AN **OSHIRUKO** STAND OVER THERE!

"AUGURI" IS A CELEBRATORY SHOUT,

AND "BUON ANNO" MEANS "HAPPY NEW YEAR."

SHWIP

HEY!

DON'T INTERRUPT ME!

WHAT'S THE NEW YEAR'S GREETING IN NEO-VENEZIA?

SAY!

OWGRYZ?

BONANO?

HEH HEH. PEOPLE SAY "AUGURI" OR "BUON ANNO."

I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT'S GOING ON HERE.

HMPH! PERFECT PRONUNCIATION...

わ WHOOPEE! し

WELL, WELL.

NYU.

AUGURI!

BUON ANNO!

AUGURI!

BUON ANNO!

I'M WITH MISS ALICIA, PRESIDENT ARIA, AIKA, PRESIDENT HIME AND MR. AKATSUKI!

AND IT'S MY FIRST NEW YEAR'S EVE ON AQUA!

YOU'RE MORE HYPER THAN USUAL.

SO BE QUIET. IT'S ANNOYING.

I CAN'T HELP IT!

BECAUSE I GOT TO MEET ALL OF YOU!

THIS YEAR WAS VERY SPECIAL TO ME.

BUT NOW IT'S ALMOST OVER!

IT WAS SUCH A SPECIAL YEAR...

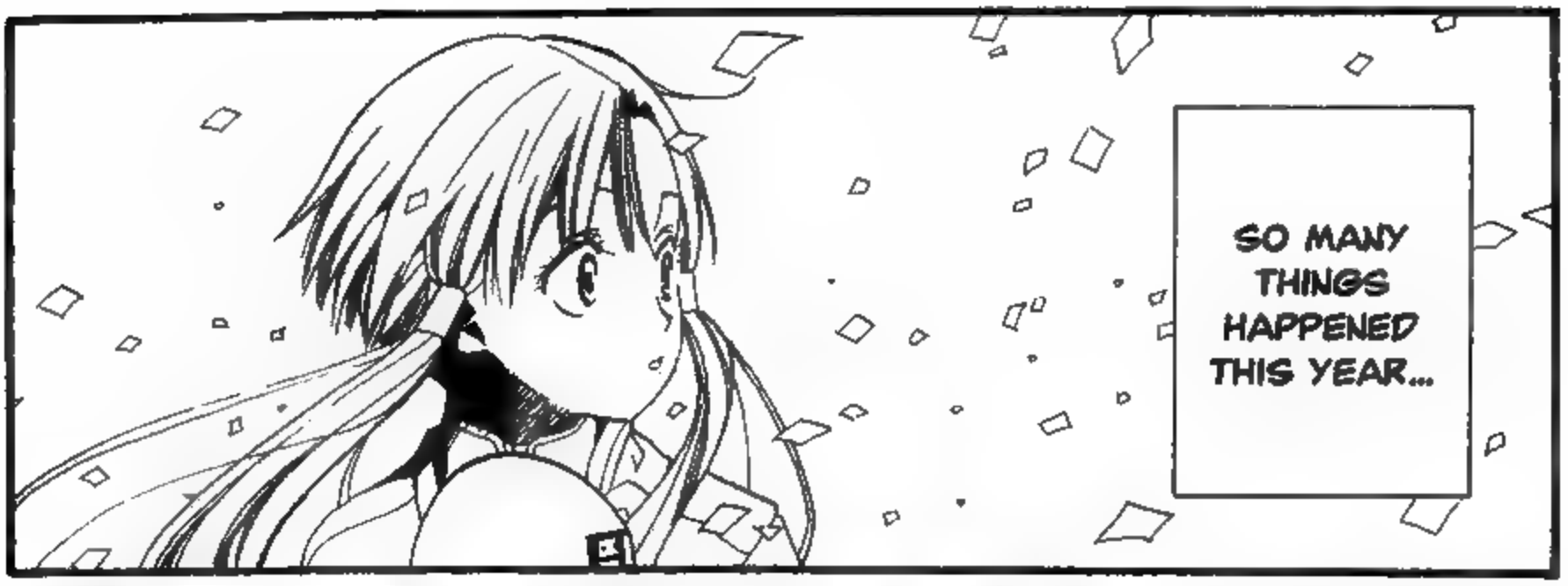
THE YEAR IS ALMOST OVER.

YAAAAAY

ARE YOU READY, AKARI?

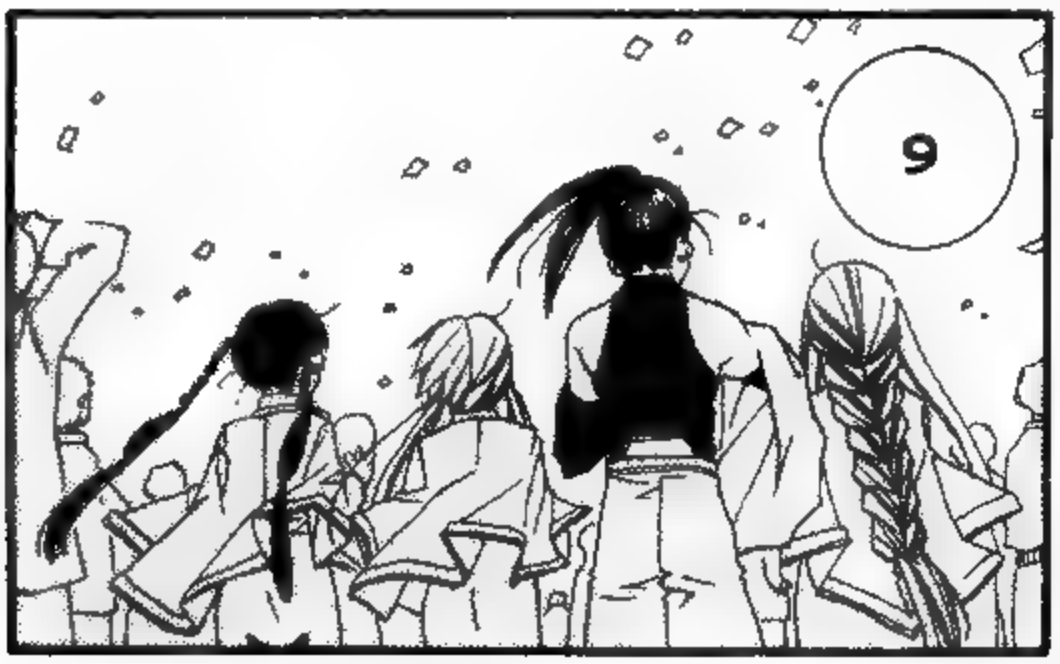
THROW IT AS SOON AS IT TURNS MIDNIGHT, OKAY?

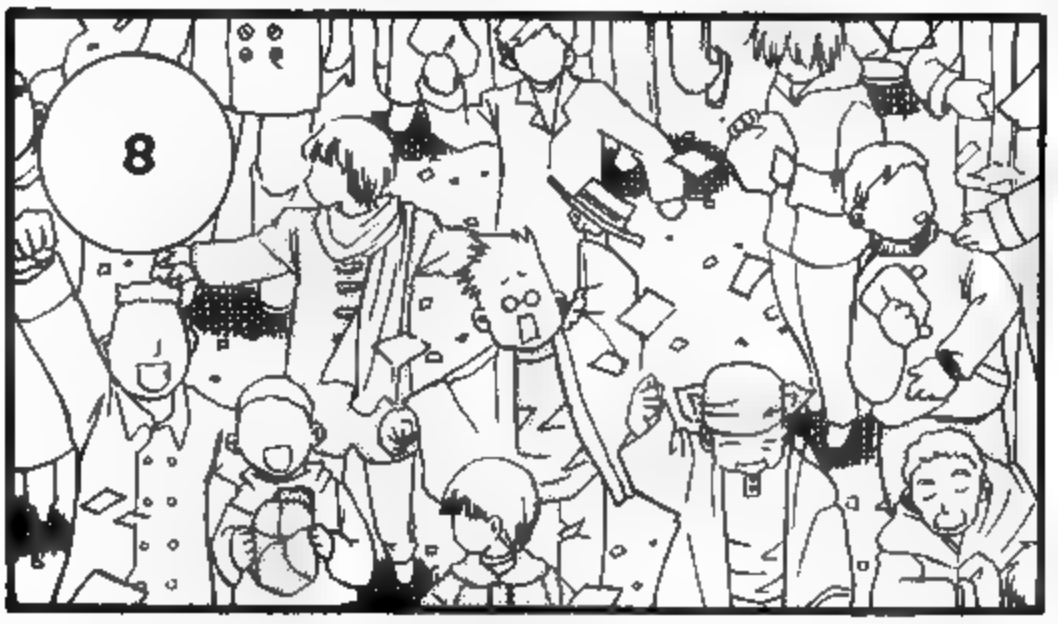
IT'S ABOUT TIME FOR THE COUNT-DOWN.

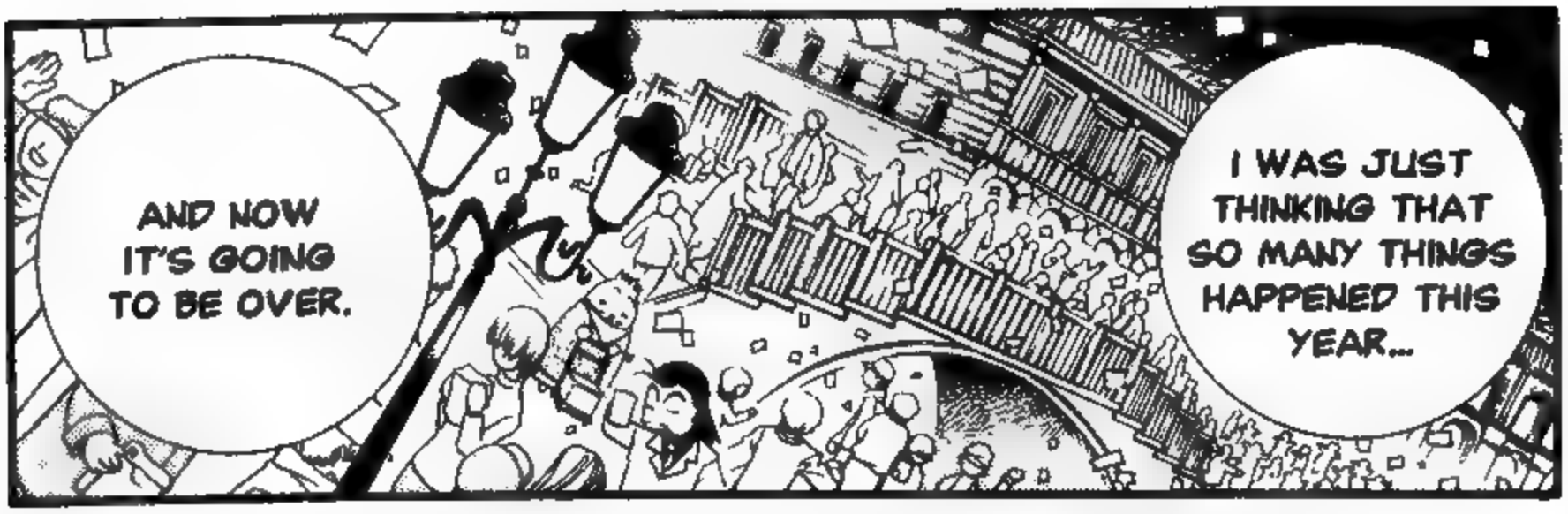

SO MANY THINGS HAPPENED THIS YEAR...

SO MANY PRECIOUS MOMENTS.

DAYS AS WONDERFUL AS GLITTERING JEWELS...

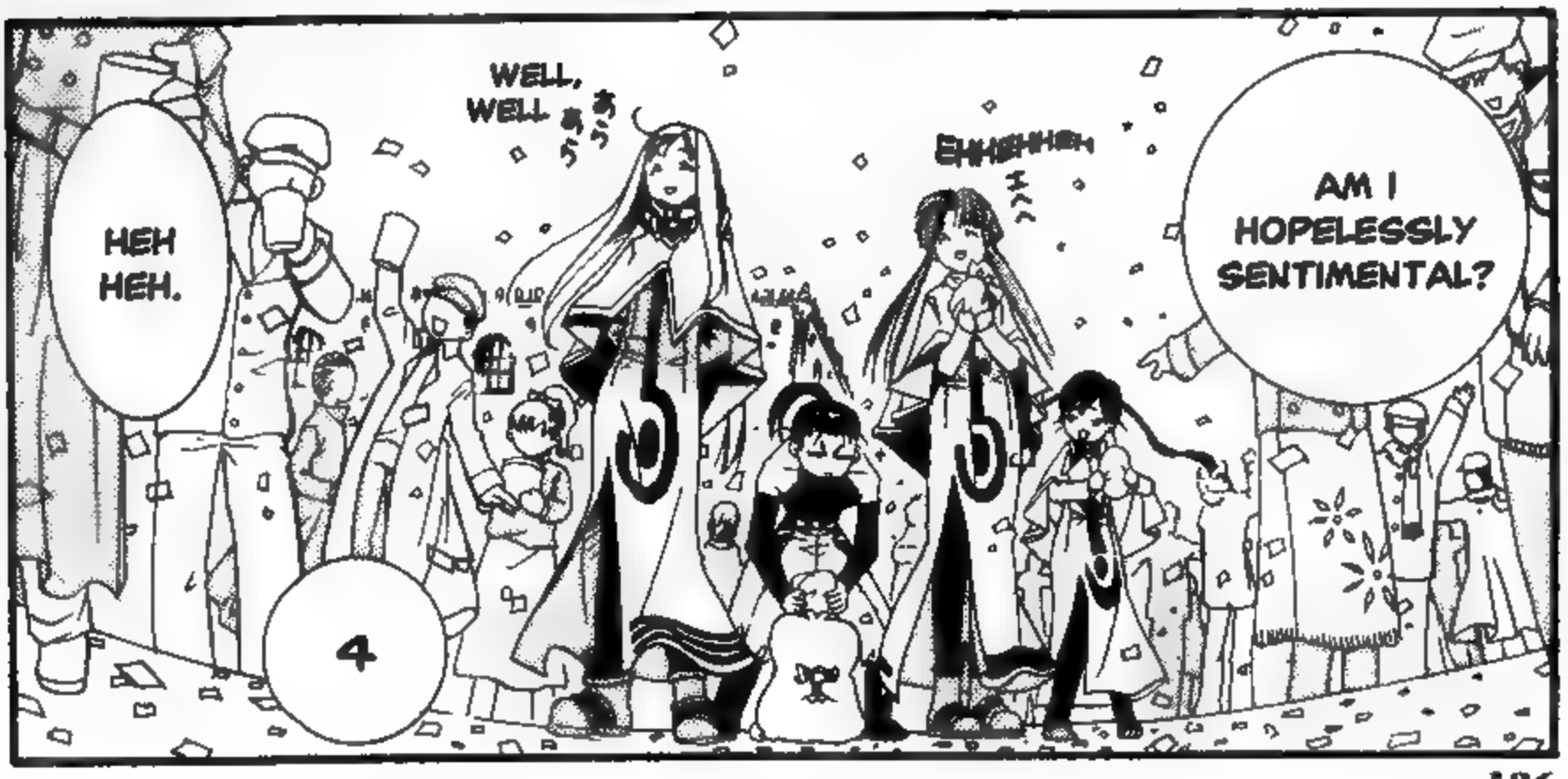





AND NOW IT'S GOING TO BE OVER.
I WAS JUST THINKING THAT SO MANY THINGS HAPPENED THIS YEAR...

5

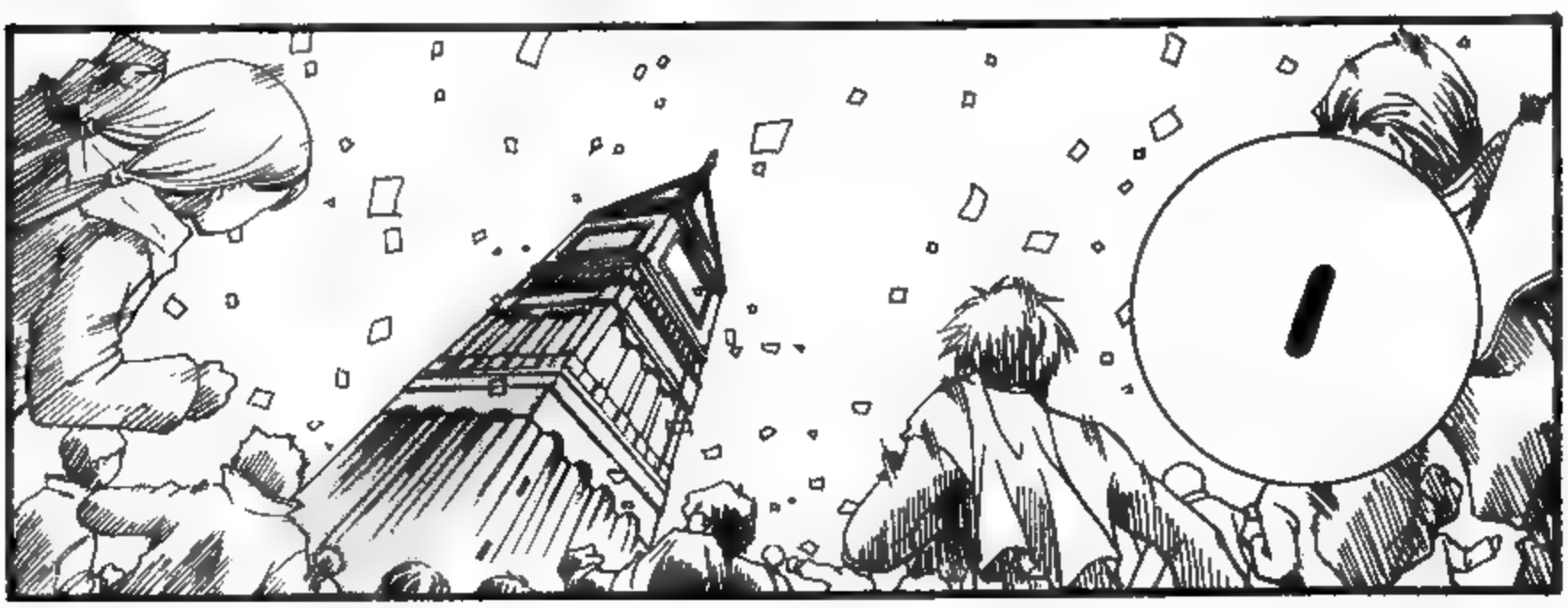
I JUST HATE TO LET IT ALL GO...

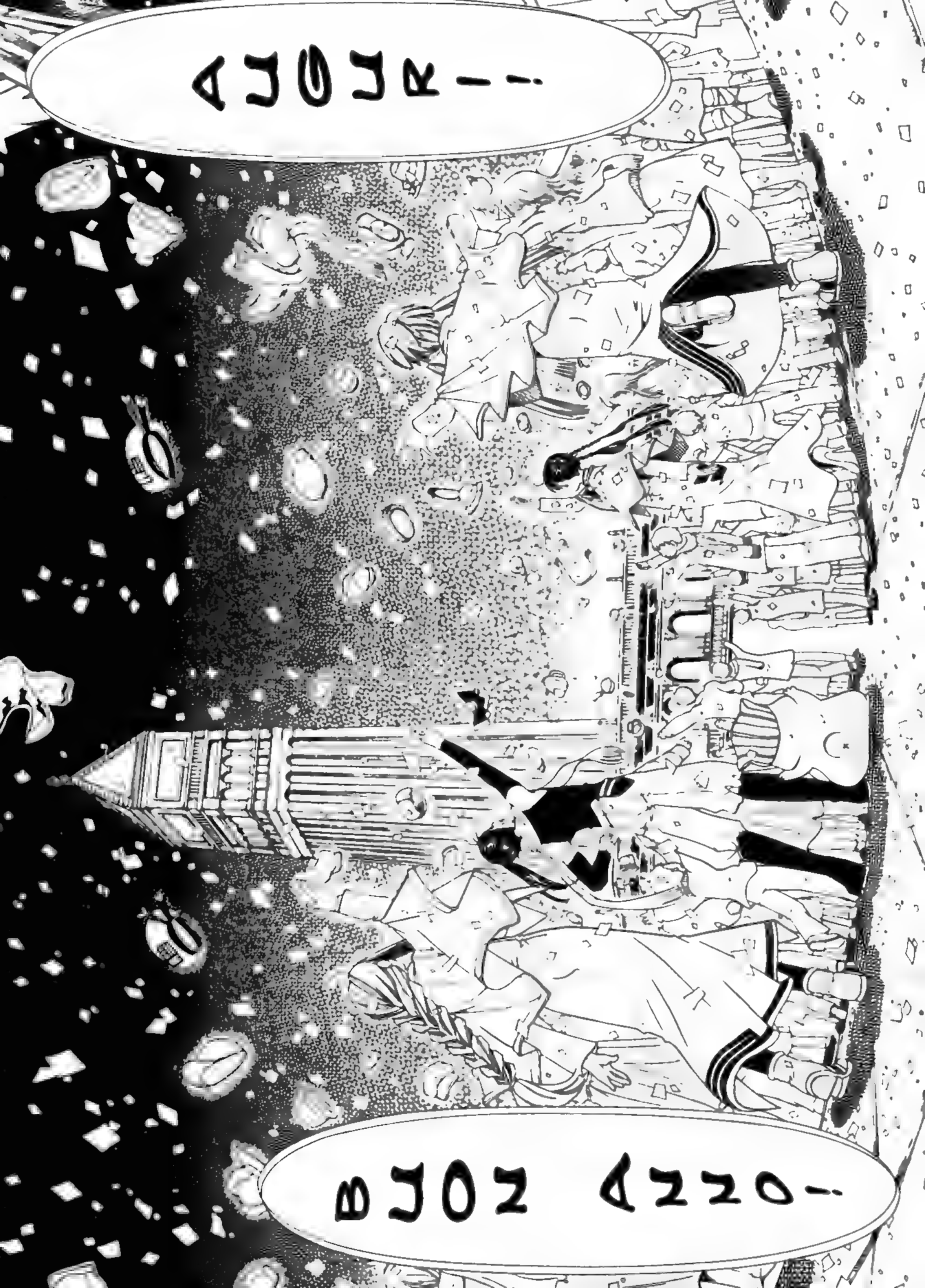

HEH HEH.
WELL, WELL
EHHEHHEH
AM I HOPELESSLY SENTIMENTAL?
4

YES.
3

2

SENTIMENTAL...
AND
WONDERFUL.


1


ARGH--
WHOA AAAH-

DING-DONG

DING-DONG

DING-DONG

DING-DONG

IN A MASSIVE CELEBRATION THAT LASTED UNTIL SUNRISE.

BANG

BANG

YAAAAAAAr!!

FLTTT

AFTER THAT, THE CROWD ROSE UP...

WE ATE LOTS OF OSHIRUKO...

HE'S FAST!

OSHIRUKO

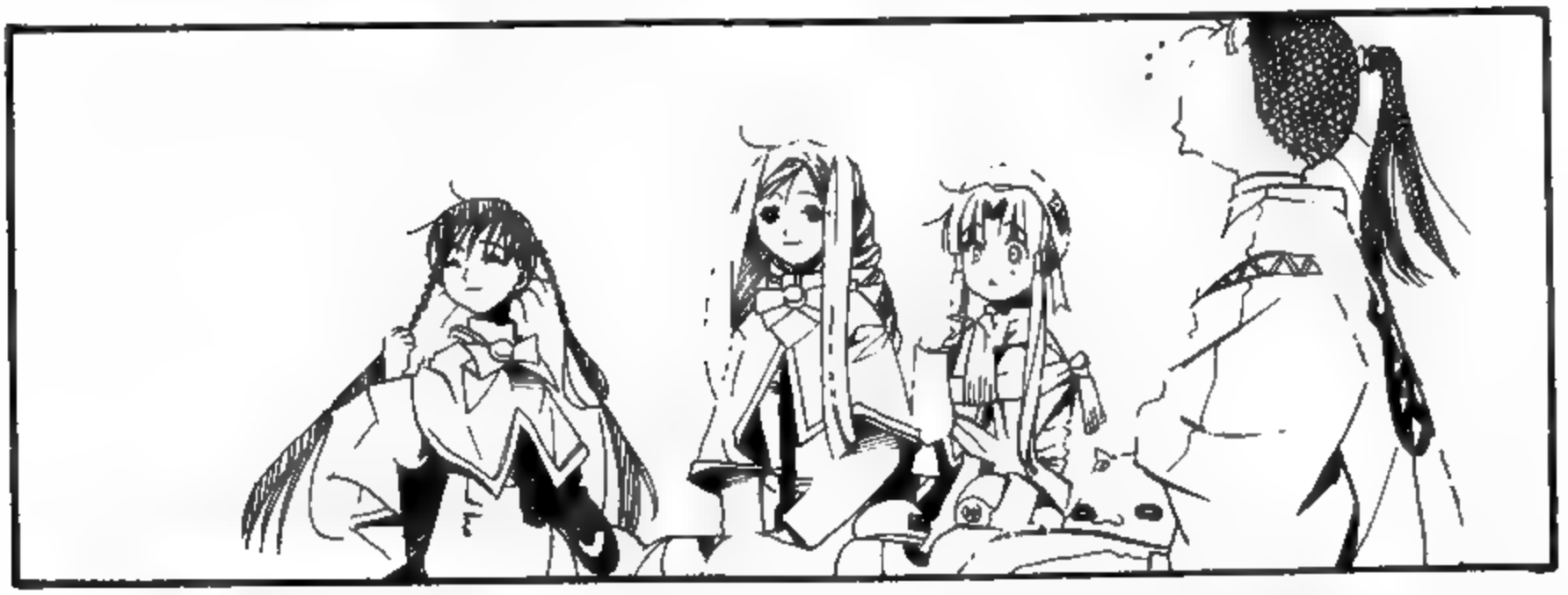
DETERMINED NOT TO BE OUTDONE BY THE OTHER PARTYGOERS.

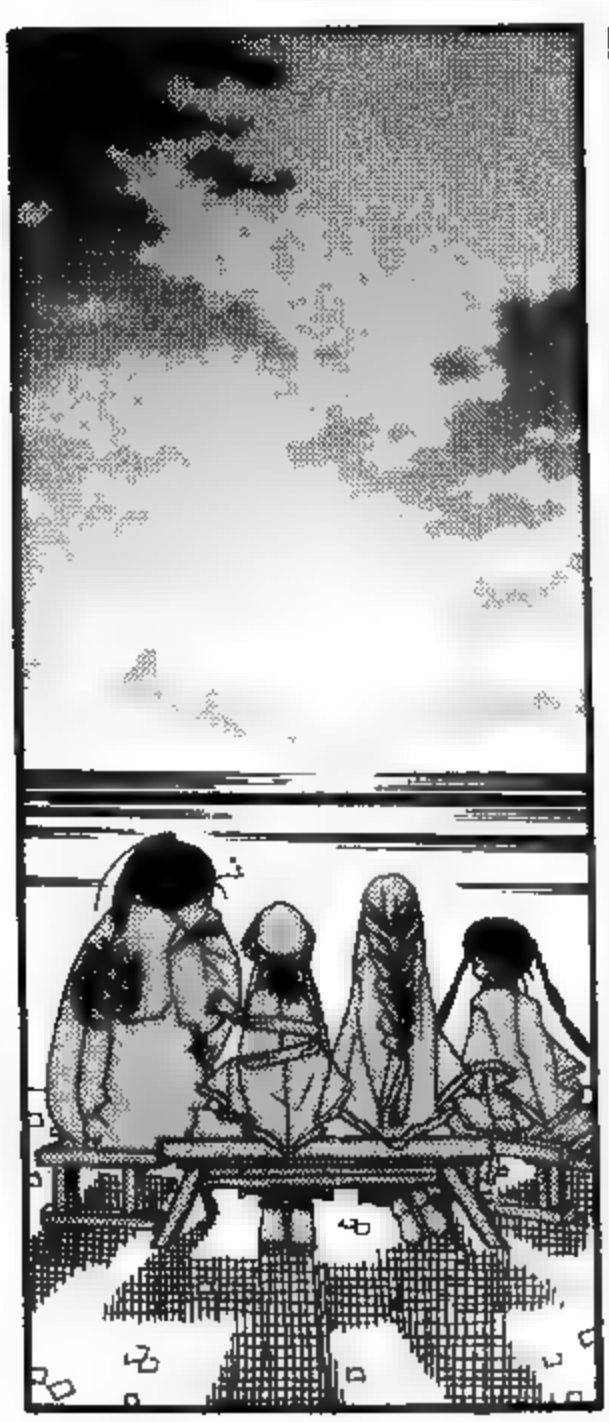
AND CELEBRATED ALL NIGHT LONG AS WELL.

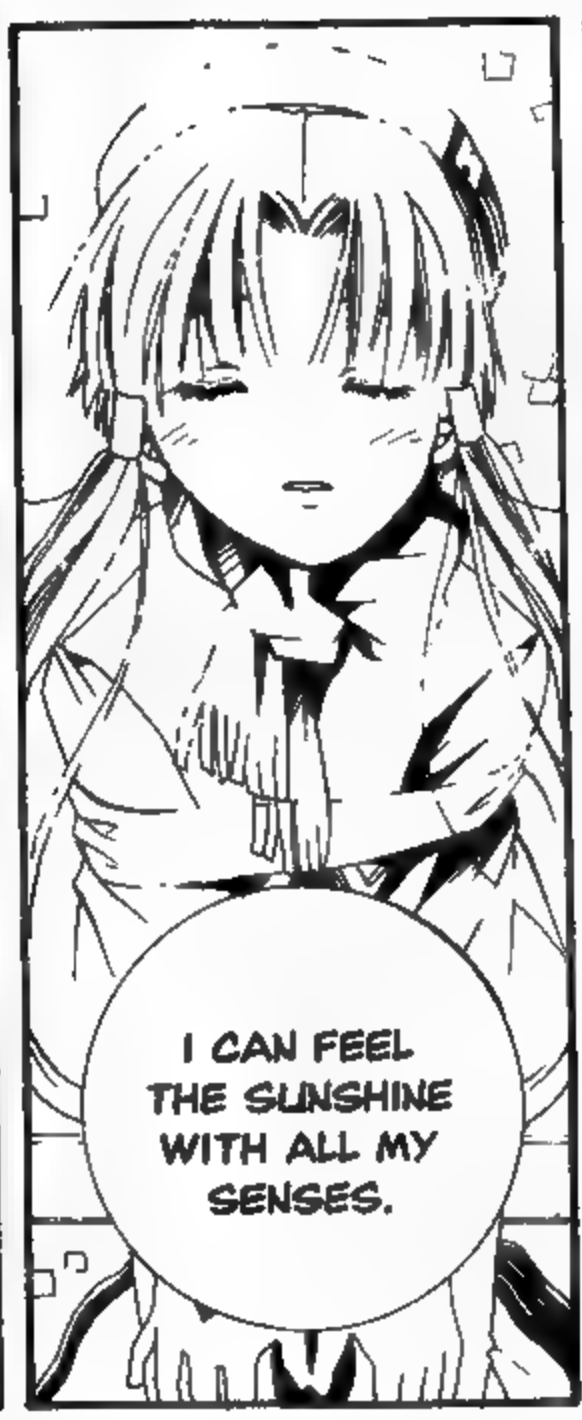
OSHIRUKO

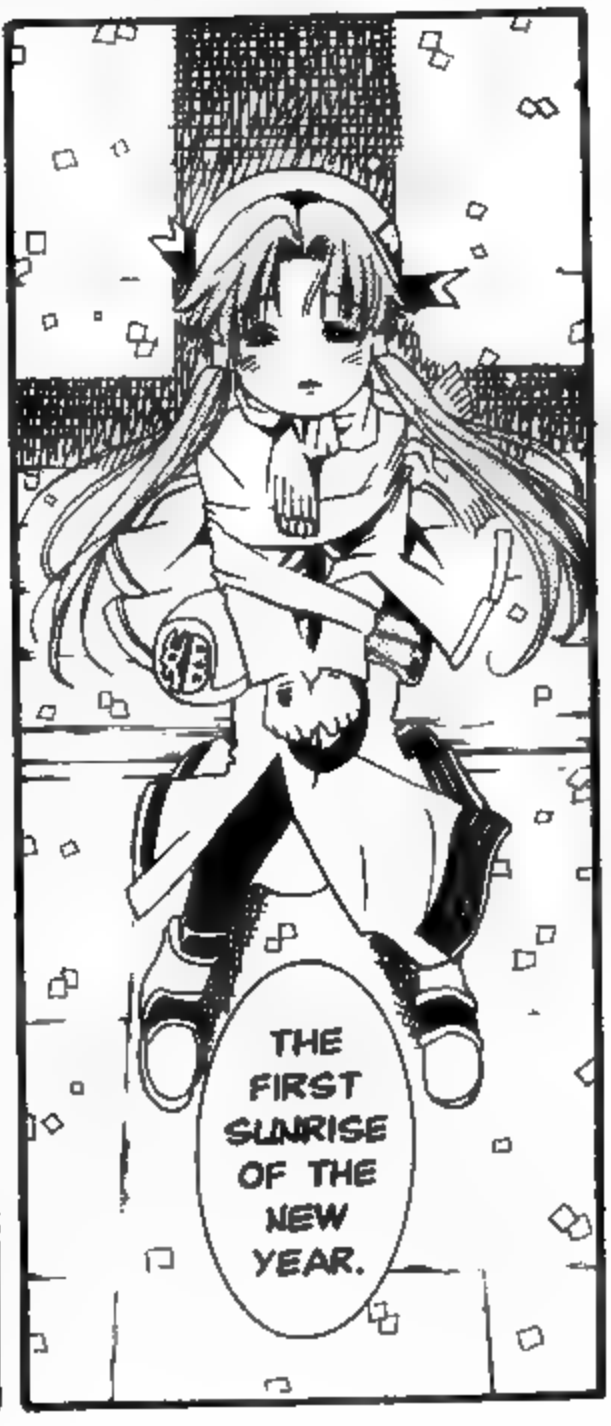
SWSSHH

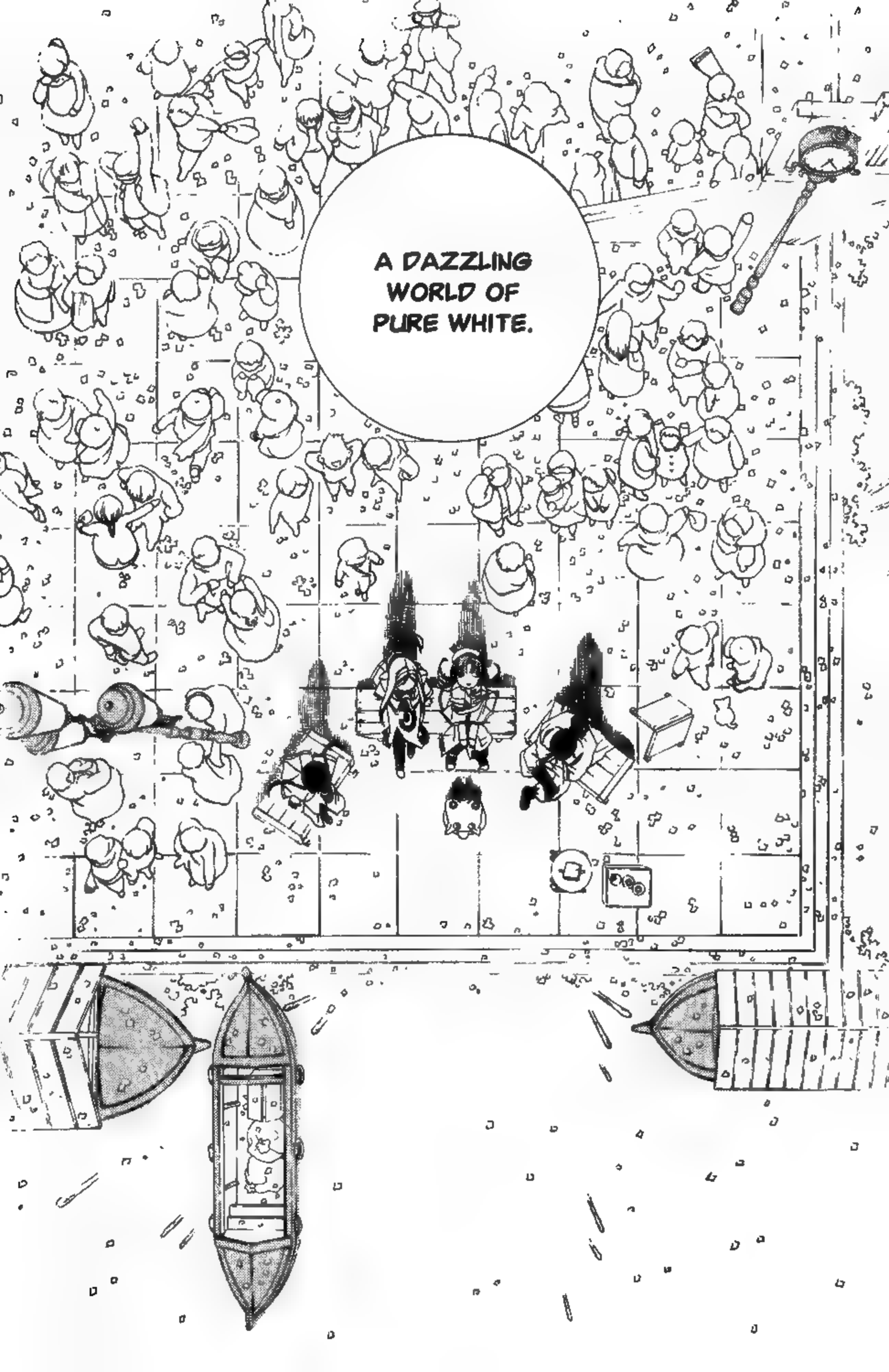
MMM...
GOOD MORNING, AKARI.
NYU.
PWFF






I CAN FEEL THE SUNSHINE WITH ALL MY SENSES.


THE FIRST SUNRISE OF THE NEW YEAR.

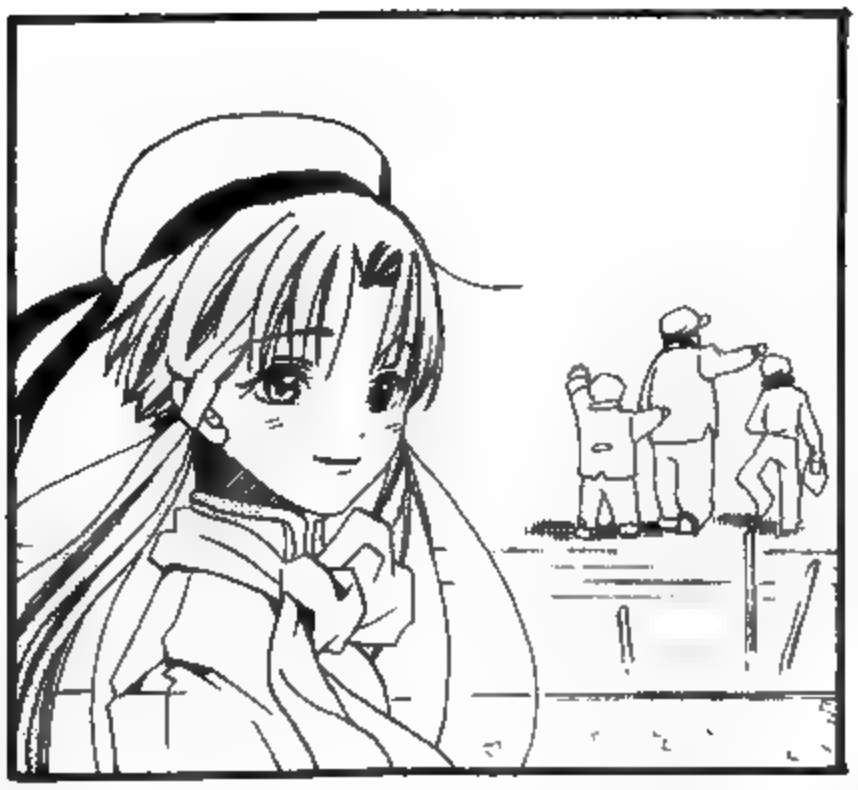

A DAZZLING WORLD OF PURE WHITE.

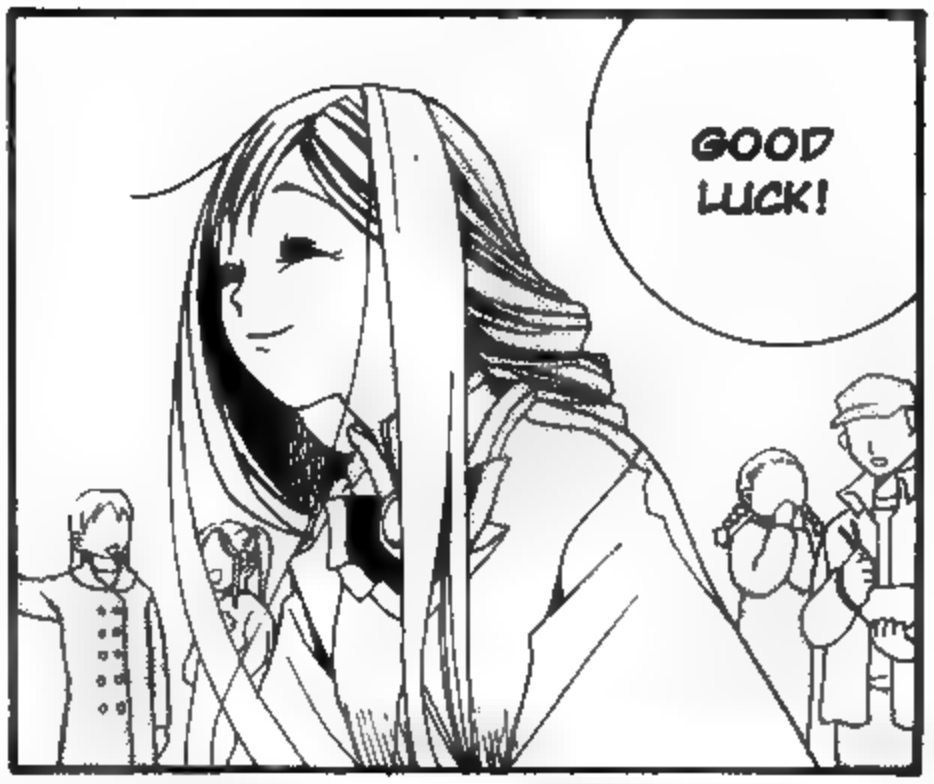
YES, INDEED.

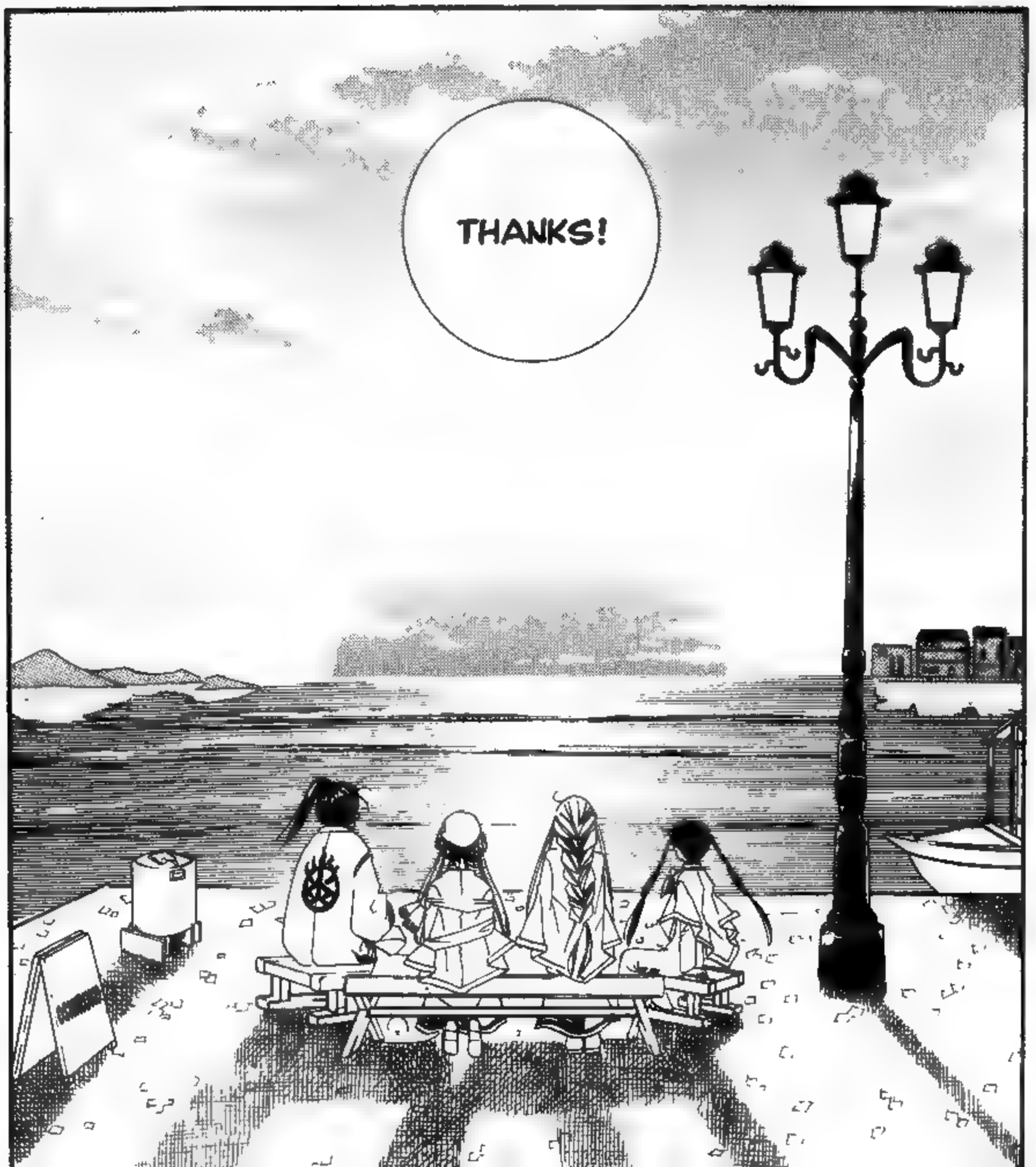
IT'S UP TO **YOU** TO PAINT IT WITH THE COLORS OF WHAT THIS NEW YEAR HOLDS.

THIS IS THE BEGINNING.

IT'S A BRAND NEW YEAR. A BLANK CANVAS.




GOOD LUCK!


THANKS!

THERE'S A HUGE FEAST.

AND PEOPLE MARCH THROUGH TOWN IN ALL KINDS OF COSTUMES.

THE TIME HAS COME. LET CARNIVAL BEGIN!

HOW ARE YOU? THIS IS THE SEASON...

FOR OUR TOWN'S BIGGEST FESTIVAL. IT'S FAMOUS ALL OVER THE WORLD.

PEOPLE COME FROM ALL OVER, FROM BOTH EARTH AND AQUA.

TO THE **MASQUERADE** IN NEO-VENEZIA.

Navigation 10
CARNIVAL

CARNIVAL, HUH?

I WONDER WHO CAME UP WITH THE IDEA FOR SUCH AN **EXTRAVAGANT** CELEBRATION...

HEH HEH HEH

IT ORIGINALLY STARTED AS THE LAST BIG CELEBRATION BEFORE "LENT."

IT COMES FROM THE EXPRESSION *CARNE LEVARE*, WHICH MEANS "REMOVE THE MEAT"!

THEY CALL IT **CARNIVALE** IN ITALIAN.

"LENT"?

LENT IS THE 40 DAYS PRECEDING EASTER WHEN CHRISTIANS GIVE UP SOMETHING LIKE MEAT OR ALCOHOL, AND PONDER THE LIFE AND RESURRECTION OF JESUS.

WOW

THEY USED TO HAVE A CUSTOM OF EATING, DRINKING... AND PARTYING LIKE MAD BEFORE THE ONSET OF LENT. THAT WAS THE ORIGIN OF CARNIVAL.

EVENTUALLY, IT BECAME A FESTIVAL UNIQUE TO NEO-VENEZIA...

OF COURSE, **ANYONE** CAN JOIN IN, NOT JUST CHRISTIANS.

VIVA CARNIVAL!

SPRING! はる

WELL, WELL.

K-CHIC

NYU!

SEE YOU LATER, PRESIDENT ARIA.

CARNIVAL IS ALSO A FESTIVAL

TO SAY GOODBYE TO WINTER AND HELLO TO SPRING.

SPRING? はる?

WHAAAATT?!

HE'LL BE GONE ABOUT TEN DAYS.

WADDLE WADDLE

IS HE GOING SOMEWHERE?

YES.

WADDLE WADDLE

WHERE DOES HE GO?

I HAVE NO IDEA.

WILL HE BE OKAY?

OH, YES.

HE ALWAYS COMES BACK.

BUT EVERY YEAR AT THIS TIME, PRESIDENT ARIA GOES AWAY SOMEWHERE.

I DON'T KNOW WHY.

MISS ALICIA, DO YOU REMEMBER TELLING ME THE STORY ABOUT THE "CATS' MEETING" A LONG TIME AGO?

YES, THE STORY WHERE THE KING OF CATS INVITES ALL THE CATS TO A MEETING.

SO PEOPLE SAY, "WHEN YOUR CAT IS GONE, HE'S PROBABLY AT THE MEETING."

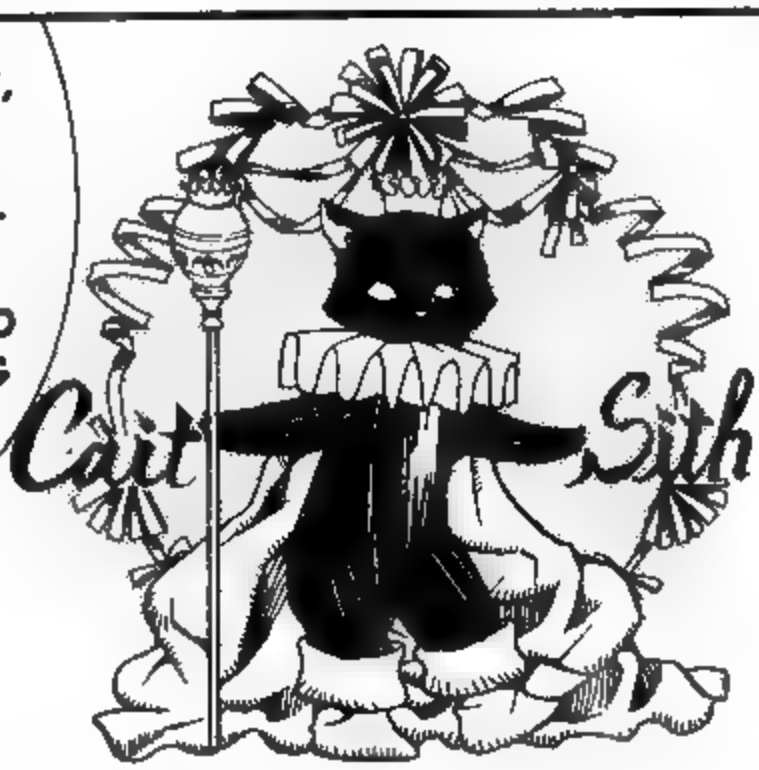
OH!

HMM.

I WONDER WHERE HE GOES.

IN THE STORY, THE KING OF CATS IS CALLED "CAIT SITH." HE'S SUPPOSED TO BE AS BIG AS A COW.

AND BLACK WITH A WHITE MARK ON HIS CHEST.



THAT'S IT! IT'S AN OLD STORY FROM THE HIGHLAND REGION ON MAN HOME.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

WELL, WELL.

I WONDER IF HE'S GOING TO THE "CATS' MEETING" AGAIN.

"AGAIN"?

WE'LL SEE.

I WANTED TO ENJOY CARNIVAL WITH PRESIDENT ARIA.

SWSSHH

SIGH. IT'S TOO BAD.

BANG

BA-BANG

YAAA

LOOK AT THAT!

WOOOW!

AKARI! AKARI!

BA-DUMP BA-DUMP

YUP. THAT'S WHAT THESE MASKS ARE CALLED.

"BAUTA"?

WHOA...

OH MY GOSH! WHAT'S THIS?

SO MANY MASKS!

WHAT, YOU DON'T KNOW? IT'S THE BAUTA STAND.

HMM... WHICH ONE?

...

FROM THE VERY BEGINNING, IT'S BEEN CUSTOMARY TO WEAR A MASK AND BLACK CAPE FOR THE CARNIVAL.

FIRST, YOU PICK A MASK YOU LIKE.

CHATTER

HEY! HERE HE COMES!

WOW! IT'S THE REAL THING!

YAAAAAY!

SQUEAL

POK-A-POK

CH-CHAAN POK

OH! HE'S HERE THIS YEAR, TOO.

THE CROWD'S GOING WILD OVER THERE.

WHAT'S GOING ON?

WOW... HE'S HUGE!

HE'S PRACTICALLY THE **ICON** OF CARNIVAL.

THAT'S EVERYONE'S FAVORITE– **CASANOVA!**

YAAAAAAY!

ANYWAY, HE WAS VERY FAMOUS FOR HIS **SCANDALOUS** PERSONALITY.

HE BROKE OUT OF PRISON, AND WAS A LADY'S MAN,

A SCHOLAR **AND** AN ADVEN-TURER.

THERE REALLY **WAS** A CASANOVA IN VENEZIA, BACK IN THE 18TH CENTURY.

WHISPER

BY THE WAY, ONLY ONE PERSON CAN PLAY CASANOVA AT CARNIVAL EACH YEAR. IT'S A VERY PRESTIGIOUS ROLE.

THERE'S A **WILD** RUMOR, TOO.

WOOOW

NOW HE'S A LEGENDARY IDOL WHO APPEARS ONLY DURING CARNIVAL.

SOME SAY HE'S A KIND OF **IMMORTAL** FAIRY.

NO WAY!

MORE THAN A HUNDRED YEARS?!

SEEN HIS FACE BEFORE.

NO ONE'S EVER...

ズニ
ポニー
PA-PON
PAKA
CHAKA-CHAKA
ズニ
ポニー

THEY SAY THE **SAME PERSON** HAS BEEN PLAYING CASANOVA

SINCE THE FIRST CARNIVAL WAS HELD HERE MORE THAN A **HUNDRED** YEARS AGO!

YAAAA!
YAAAA!
YAAAA!
YAAAA!
IT'S PROBABLY JUST A STORY TO ATTRACT PEOPLE.
WOW, AMAZING!
UNDER THAT MASK, A STRANGE PERSON WHO'S MORE THAN A HUNDRED YEARS OLD...
VIVA CARNIVAL!
YAHOO!
わーい!
WELL, WELL.
OH, BOY.
BUT I'D STILL LIKE TO KNOW WHO HE IS.
IN THIS KIND OF CROWD, ON THE FIRST DAY OF CARNIVAL.
HEH HEH HEH
WE WERE VERY LUCKY TO SEE CASANOVA...
STOKED
うぅ
うぅ
AKARI?

DURING CARNIVAL, PEOPLE PARTY ALL DAY AND NIGHT...

THE MYSTERIOUS FESTIVAL OF CARNIVAL FINALLY KICKED OFF.

YAAY!!

IT FEELS LIKE THE ENTIRE TOWN HAS BEEN **TRANS-FORMED** INTO A DIFFERENT WORLD.

AND THINGS ONLY GET WILDER AS TIME GOES ON.

I'M SO TIRED!

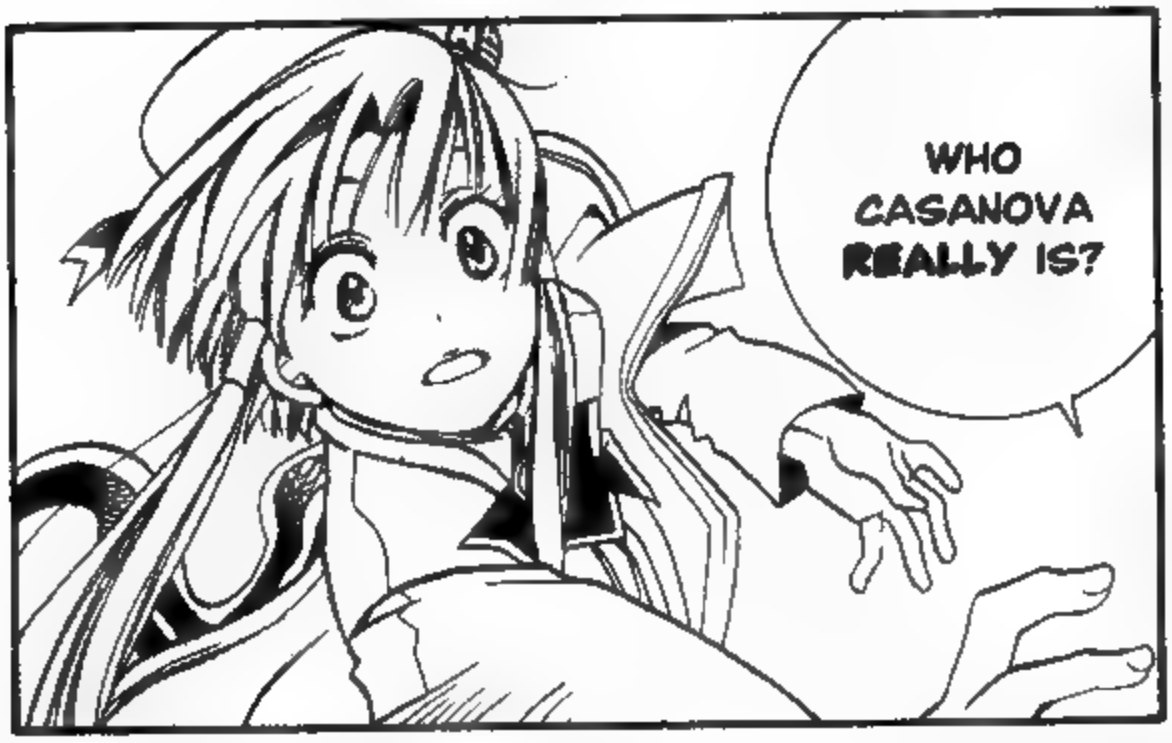
BANG BANG

AAAA

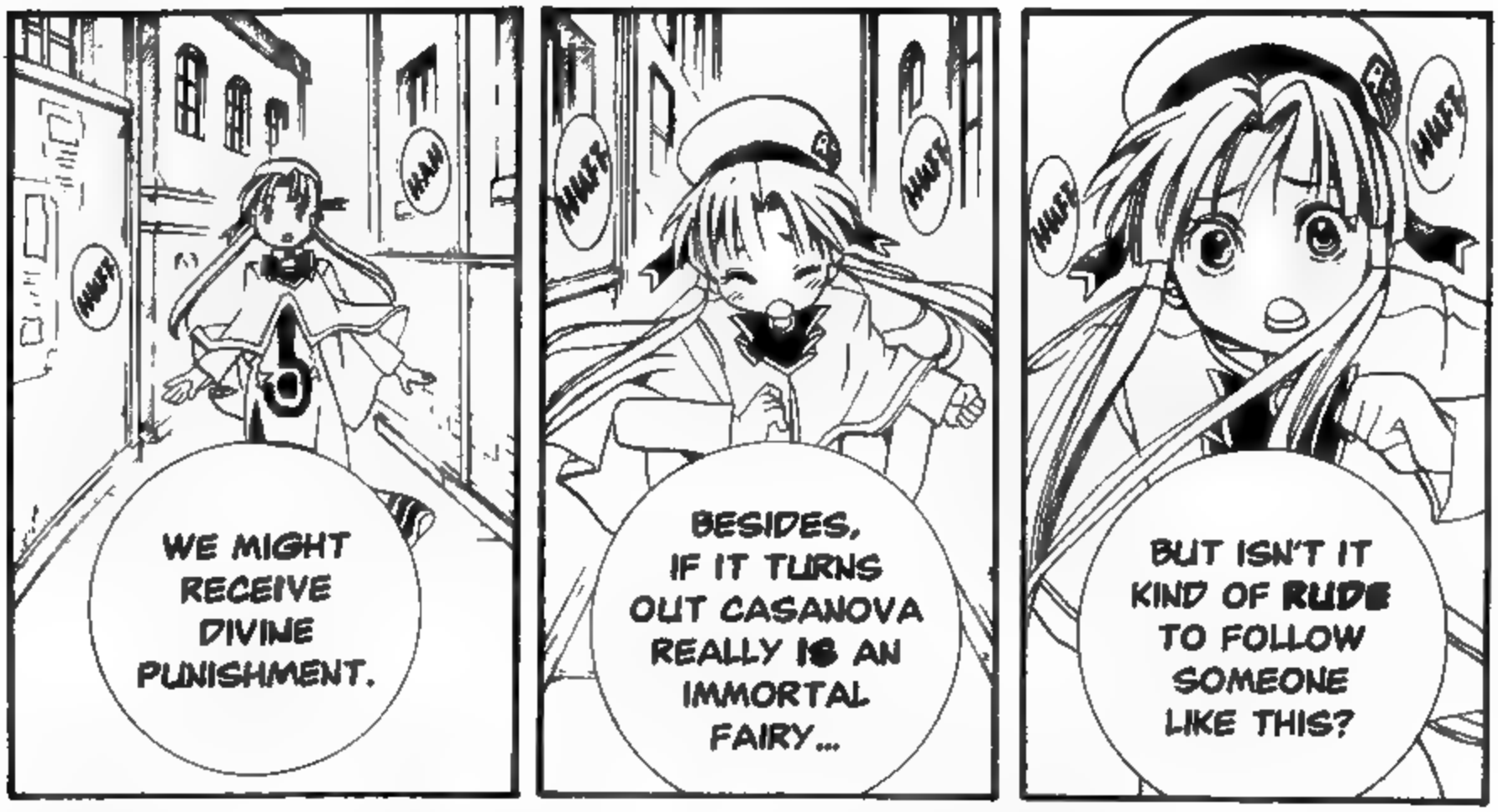
YEAH.
HEY!
WASN'T HE ONE OF CASANOVA'S DRUMMERS?

DON'T YOU WANT TO KNOW...

LET'S FOLLOW HIM!
DASH
WHAT?


WHO CASANOVA REALLY IS?

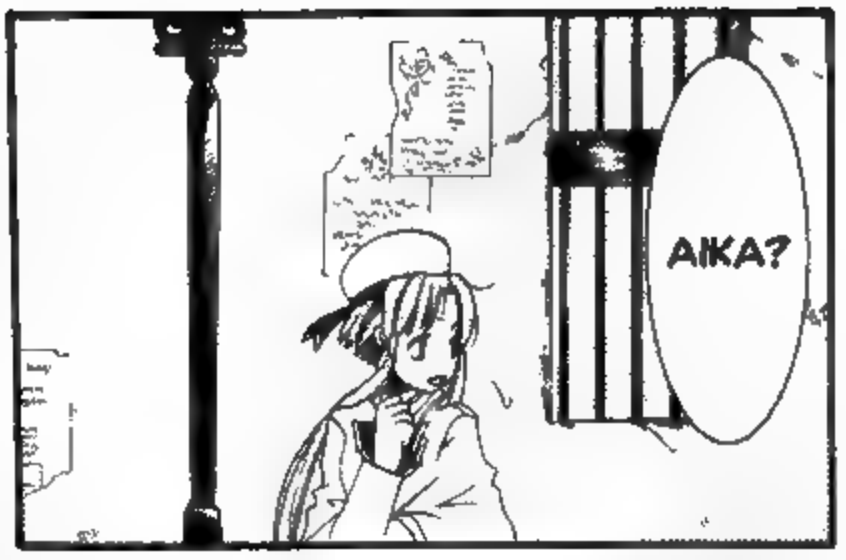
SURE! IT'D BE A GREAT STORY TO TELL PEOPLE LATER!
THP THP THP THP
ARE YOU SERIOUS?

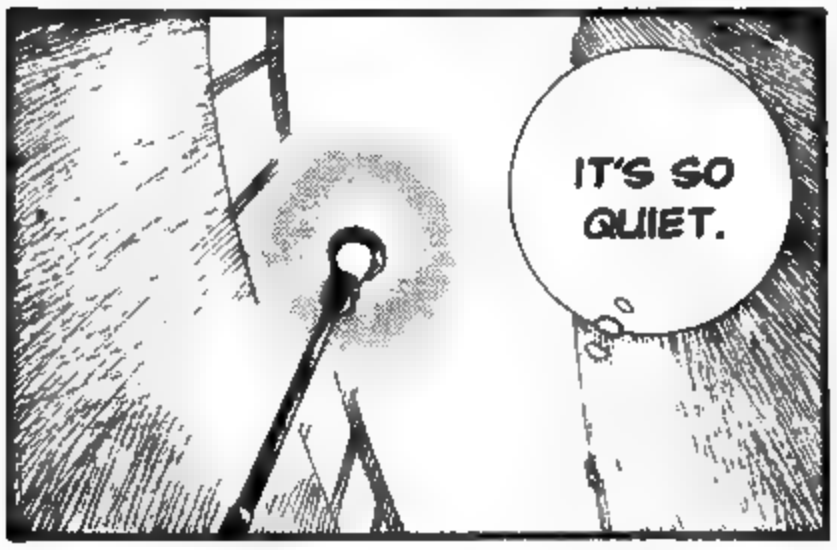

HAAH
HAFF
WE MIGHT RECEIVE DIVINE PUNISHMENT.
HAFF
HAFF
BESIDES, IF IT TURNS OUT CASANOVA REALLY IS AN IMMORTAL FAIRY...
HAFF
HAFF
BUT ISN'T IT KIND OF RUDE TO FOLLOW SOMEONE LIKE THIS?

HUH?

SILENCE

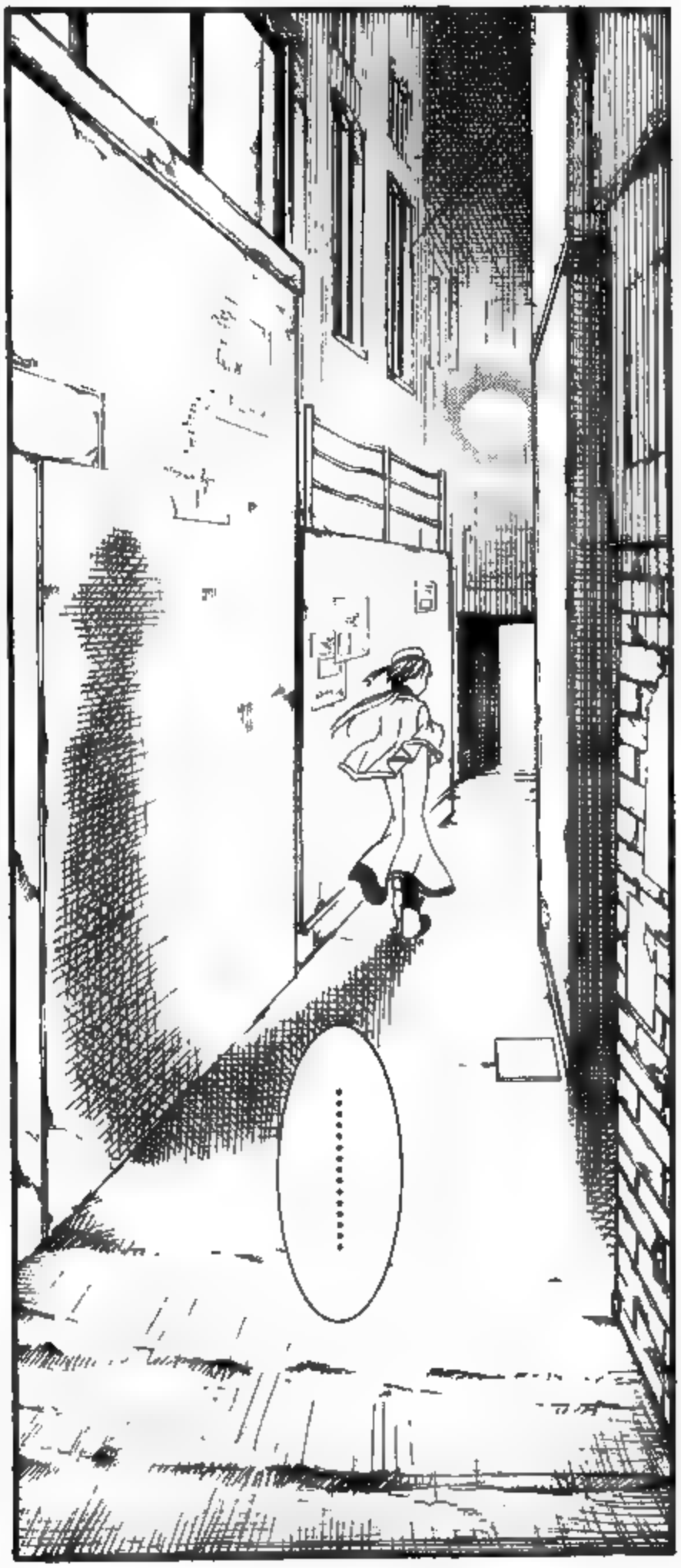
AIKA!
WHERE ARE YOU?

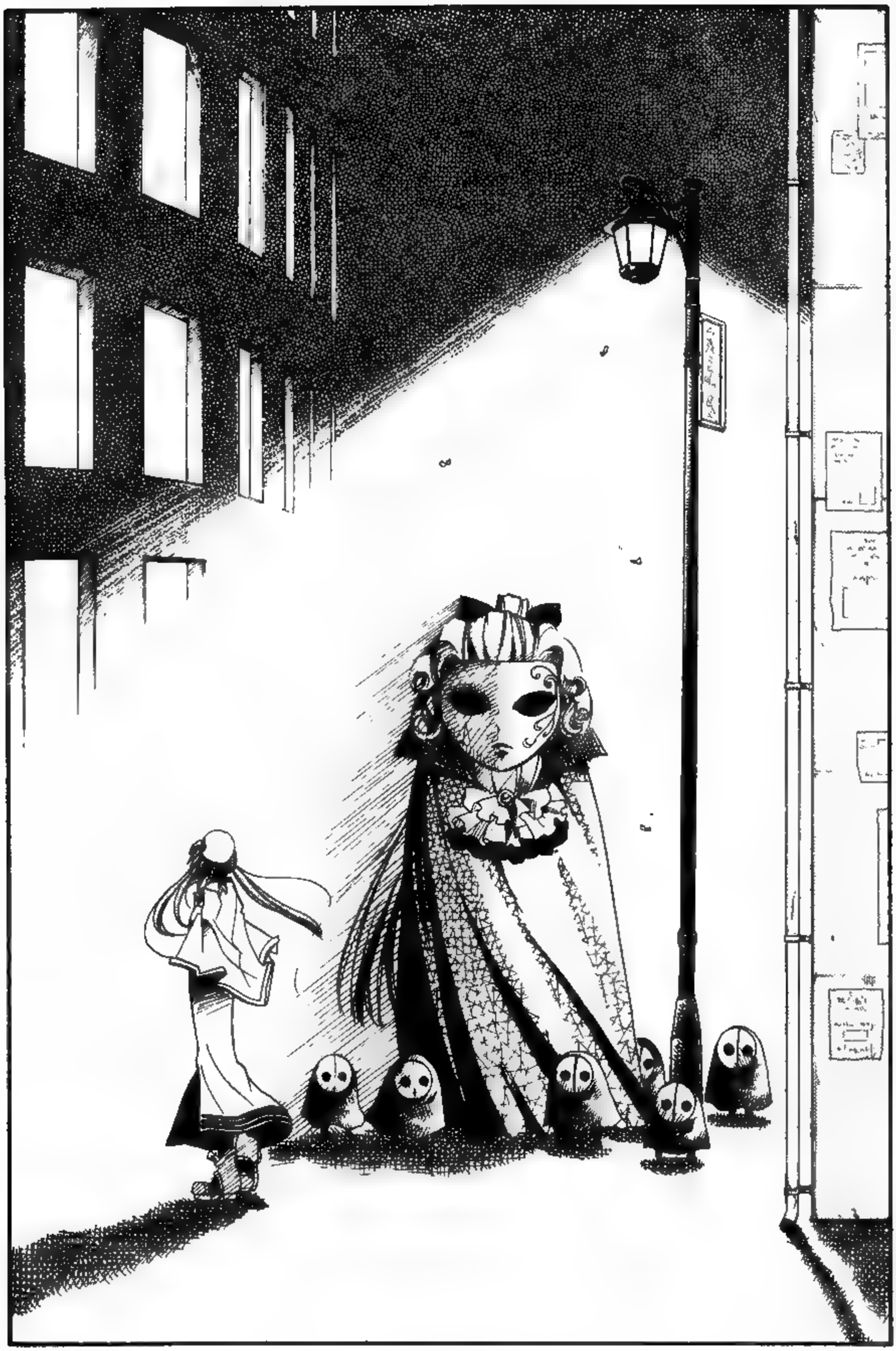

AIKA?

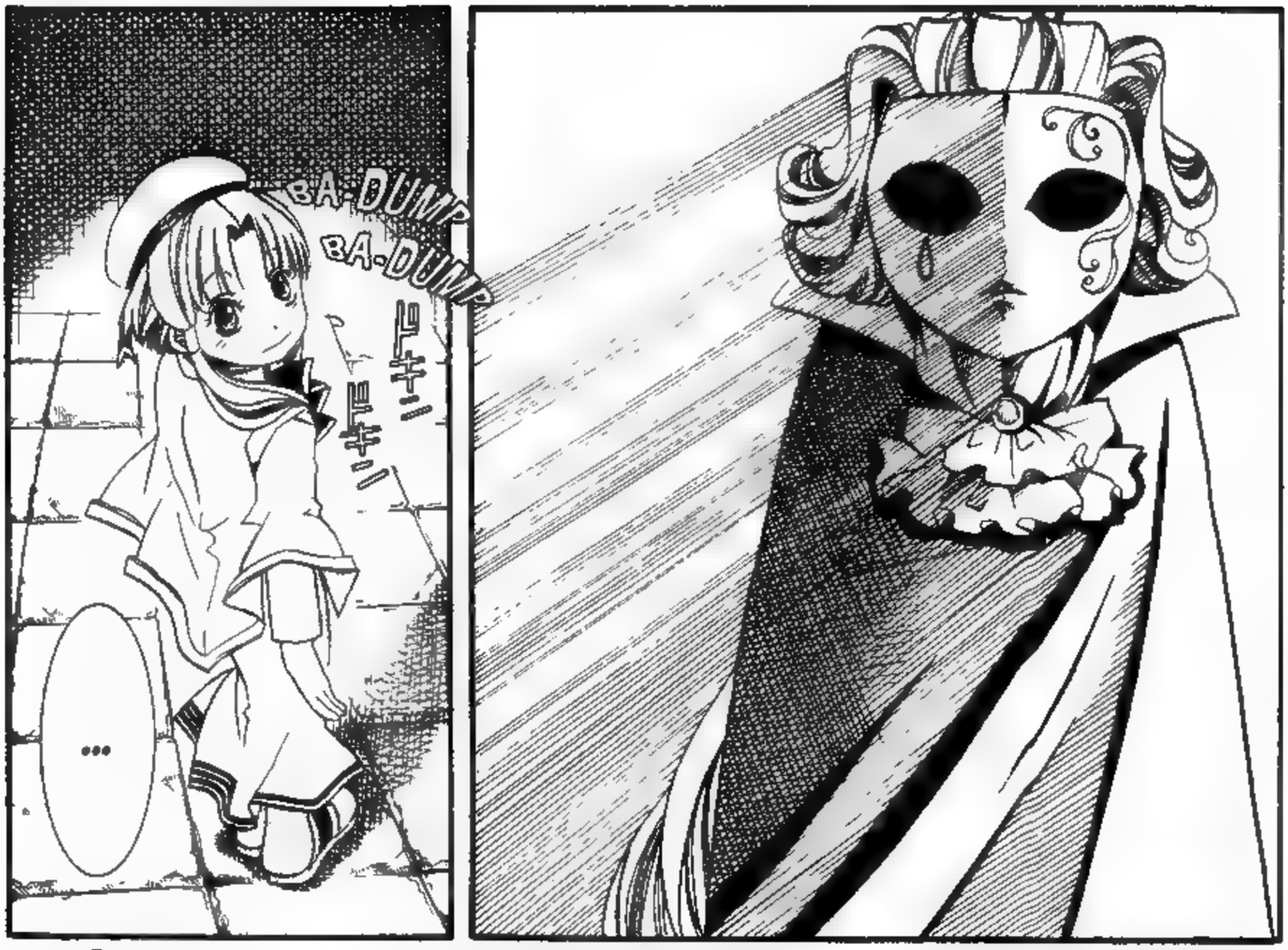

IT'S SO QUIET.

I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS PLACE WAS SO ALIVE JUST A SECOND AGO.

BA-DUMP


.....




BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP
ドキン
ドキン
...

LOOM
ルーム
G-GOOD EVENING, MR. CASANOVA.
HAVE YOU SEEN MY FRIEND?
EXCUSE ME, BUT...

...

SO YOU HAVEN'T SEEN HER?

I SEE...

WHERE COULD SHE HAVE GONE?

SHE'S WEARING THE SAME UNIFORM AS ME.

POM PA-POM

ズーン

POM PA-POM

ズーン

POM PA-POM

ズーン

POM

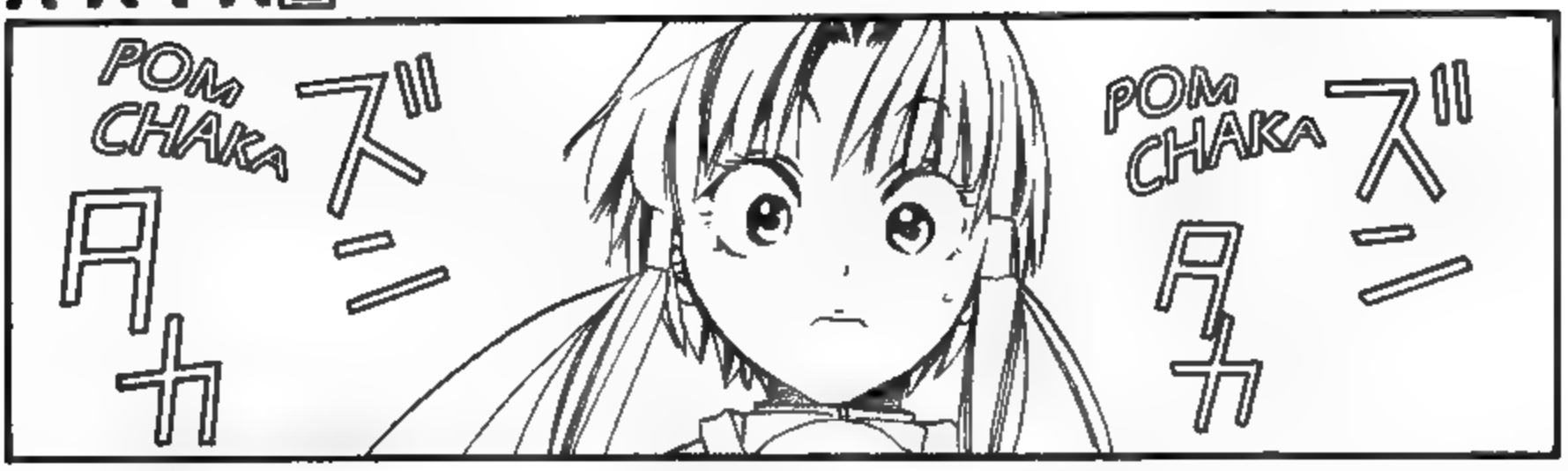
ズーン...

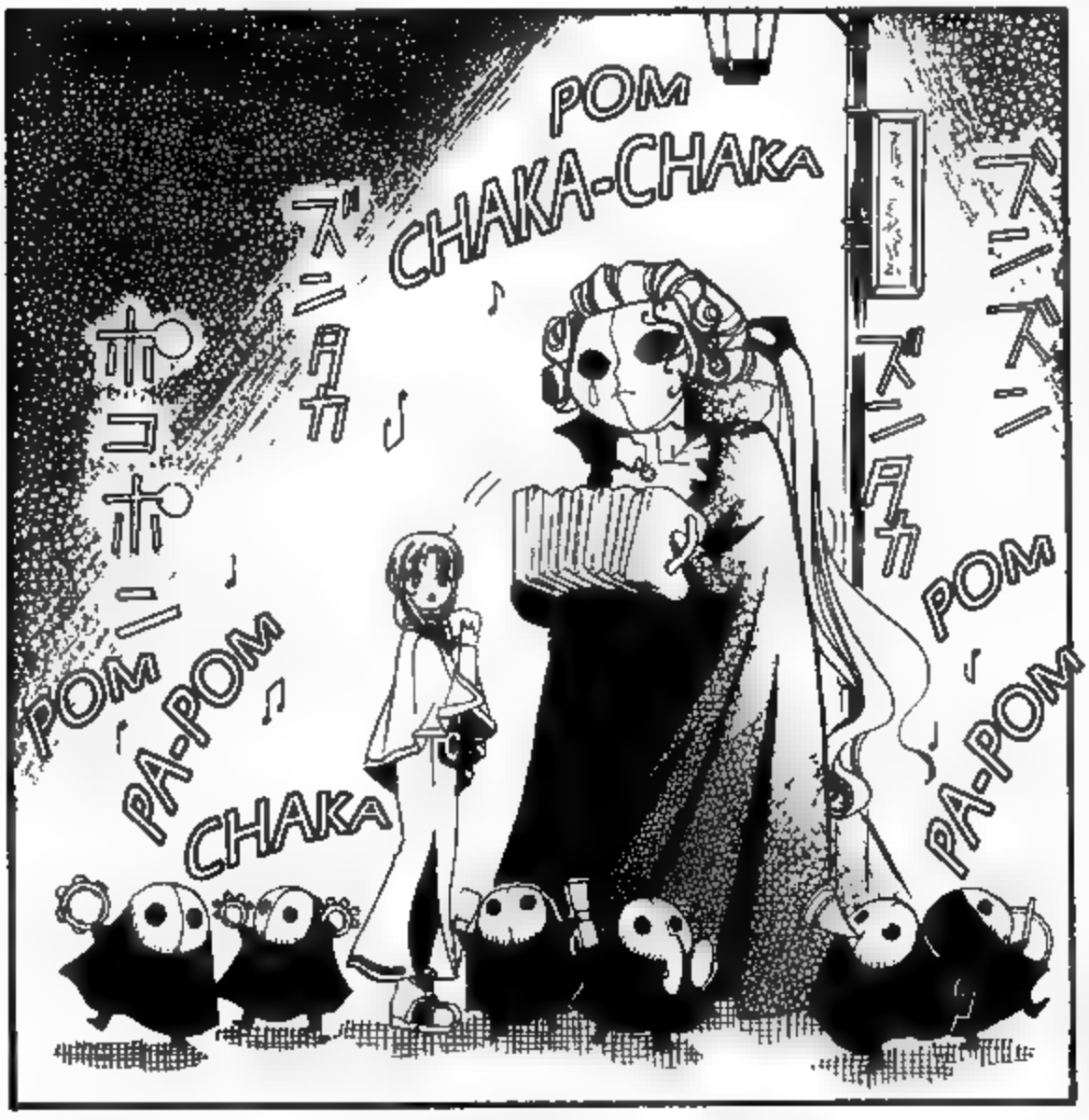
POM

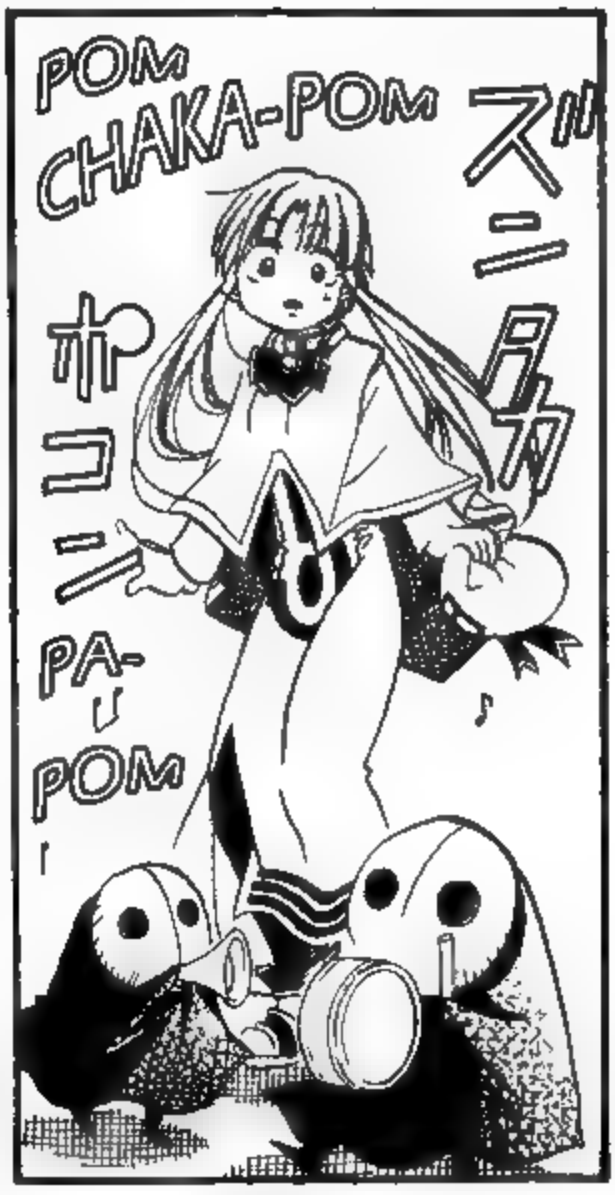
ズーン...

POM

ズーン...


POM CHAKA ズーニー
POM CHAKA ズーニー


POM CHAKA-CHAKA
ズーニー
ポコニー
POM
PA-POM
CHAKA
ズーニー
POM
PA-POM


POM CHAKA-POM
ズーニー
ポコニー
PA-
POM

POM
PA-POM
ズーニー
ポコニー
PA-PA
POM
POM
ズーニー
CHAKA-CHAKA
...

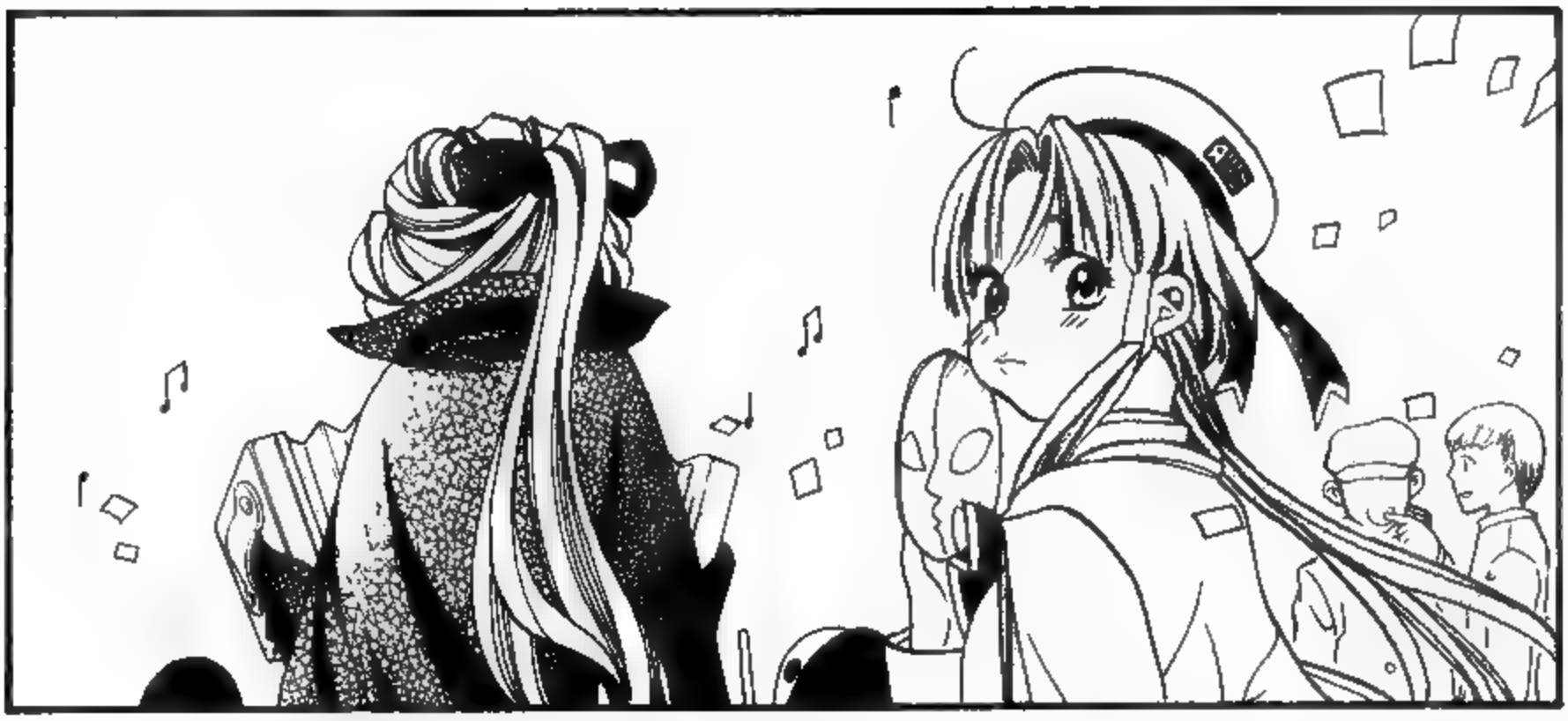
WHAT?

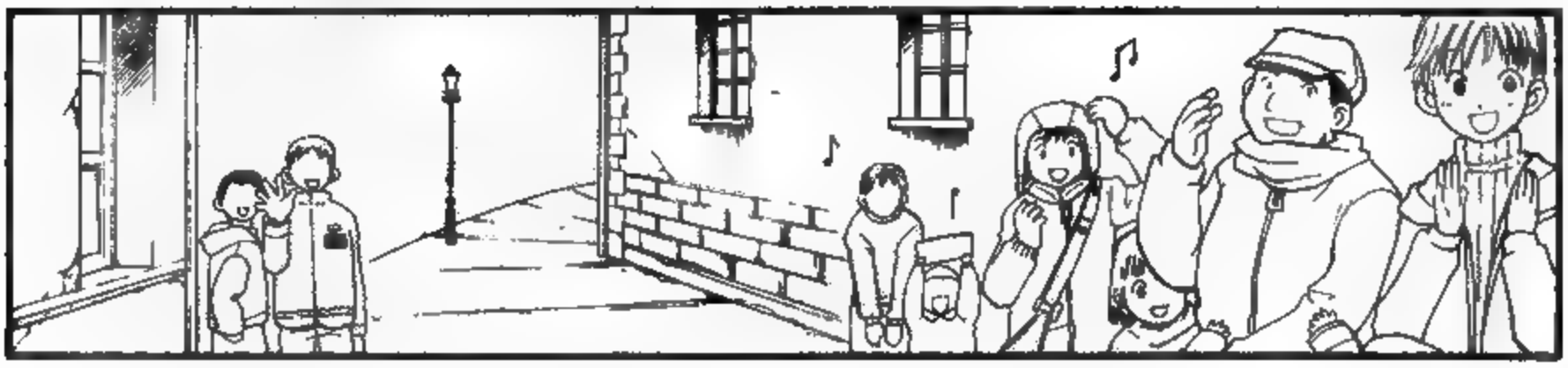
FWP ん ん
FWP い い

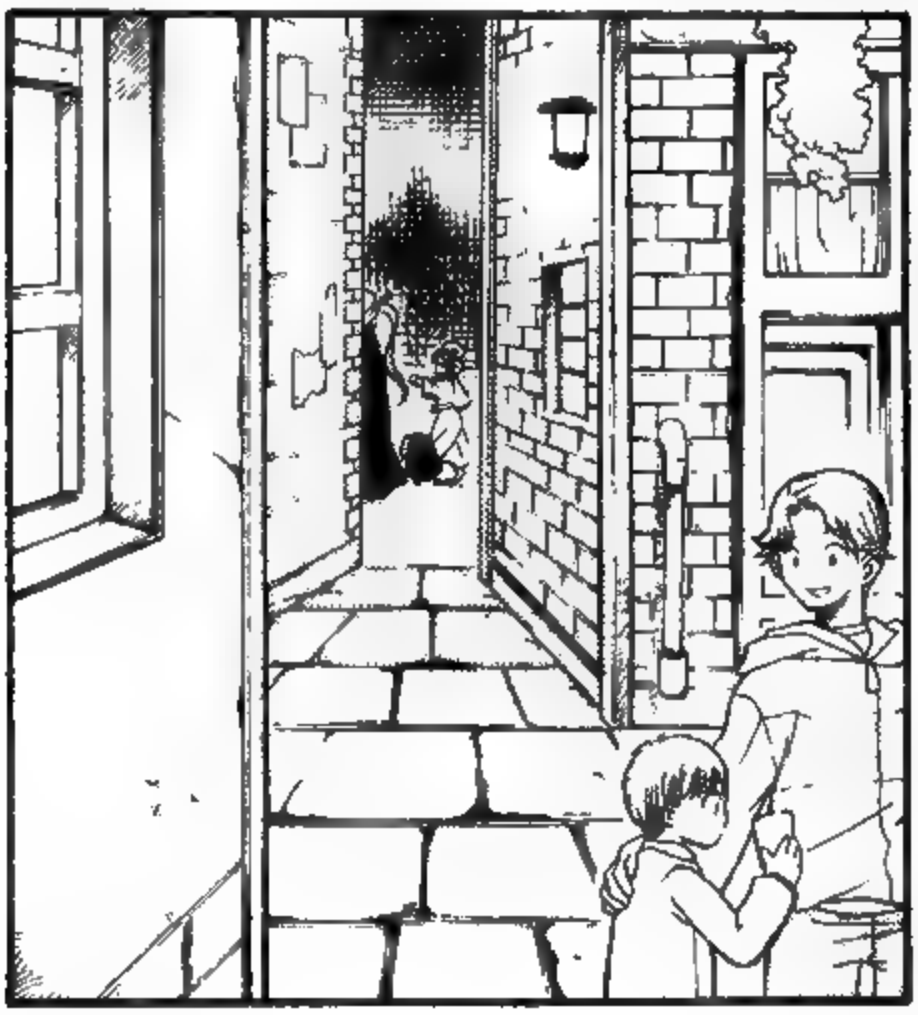
!

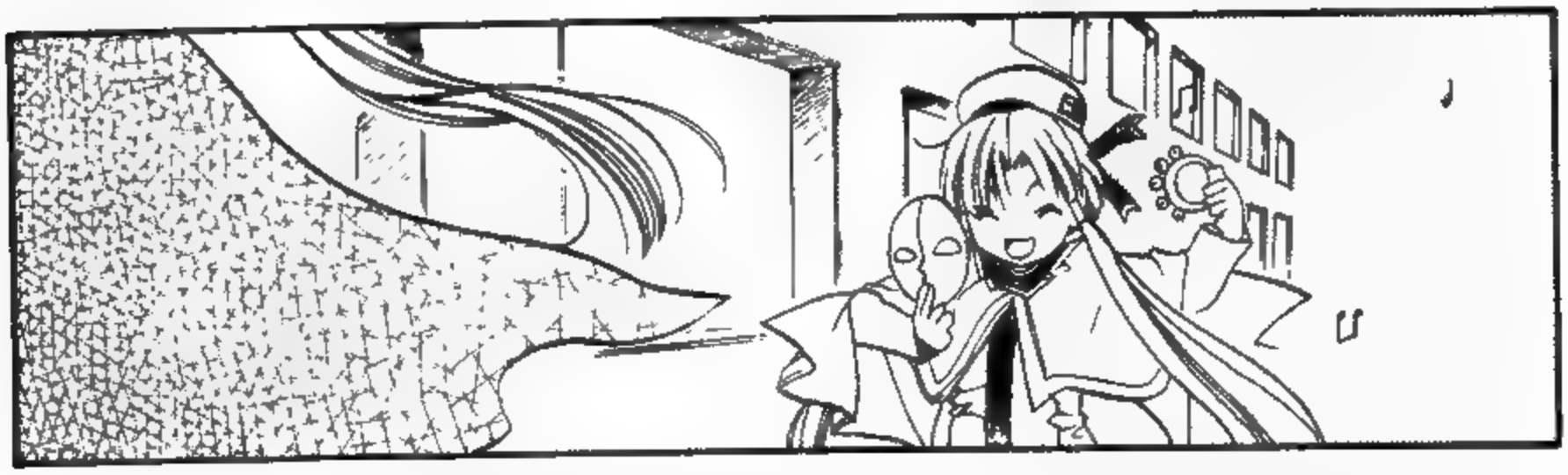
POM-PA
POM
CHAKA
スンタカ
ズー
ドコ
ドー
CHAKA-
CHAKA
ドゥ

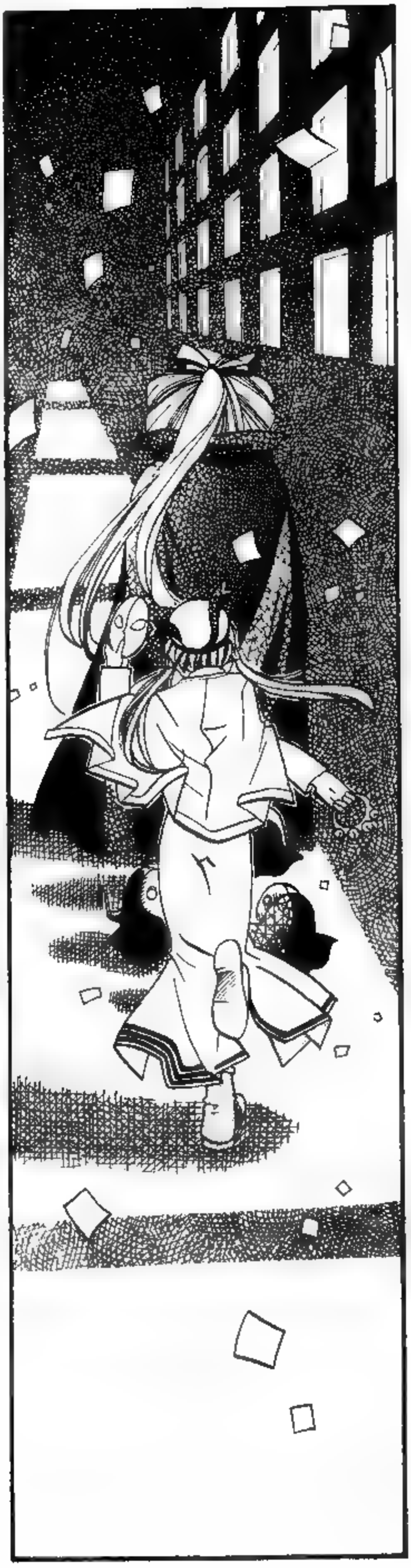
CAN I JOIN YOU?





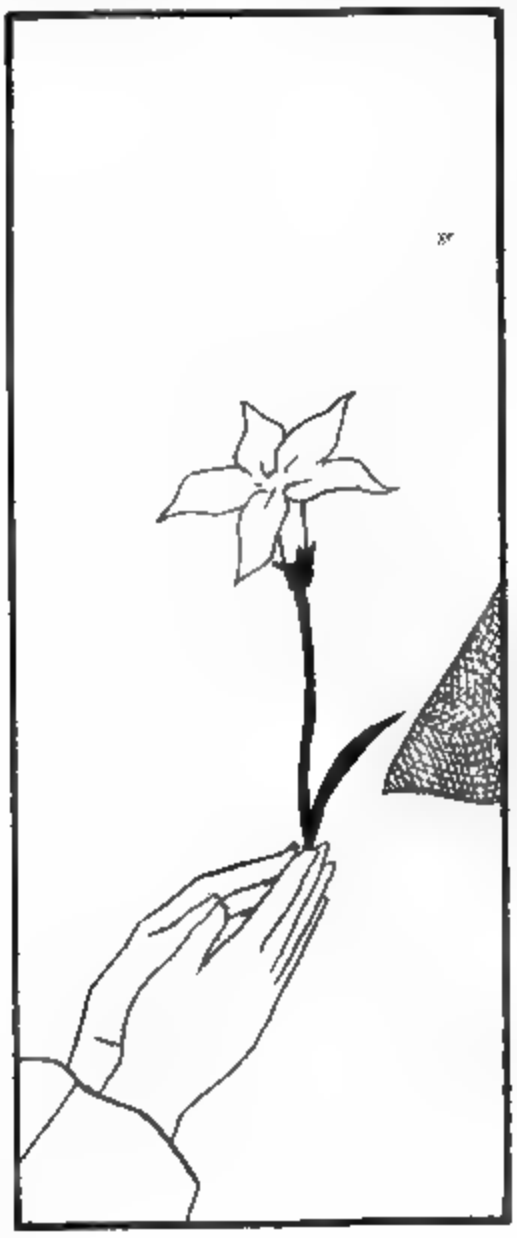


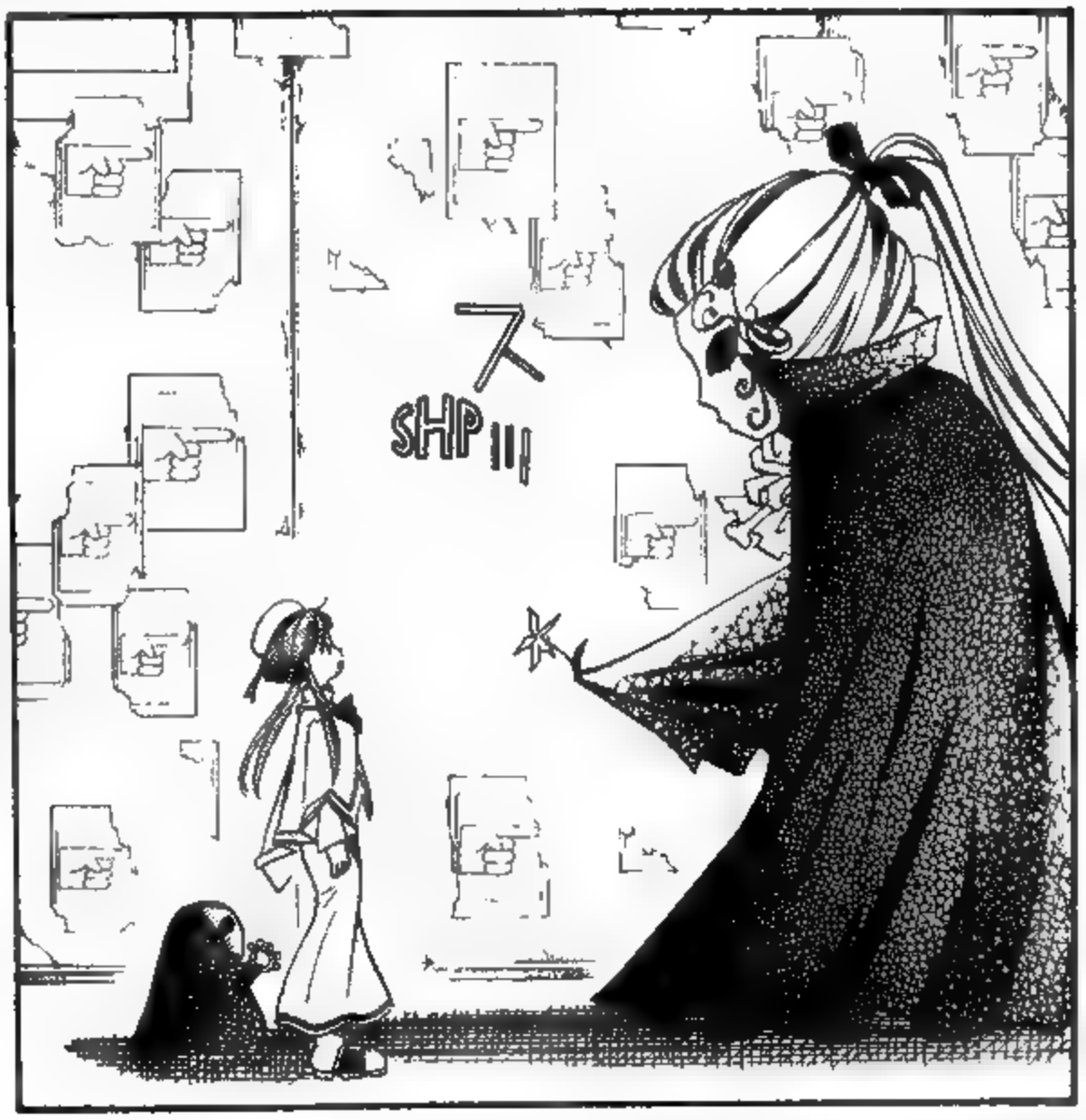




W-WHY DID YOU STOP?

!
BWUMP




SHP!!!

THANK YOU!
THIS FLOWER... IS FOR ME?
UM...
SWSSHH
FWP
BUT,
THIS IS AS FAR AS YOU WANT ME TO GO?
JUST A LITTLE LONGER.
I STILL WANT TO GO WITH YOU.

WHAT? AM I IN YOUR WAY?

SHAKE SHAKE

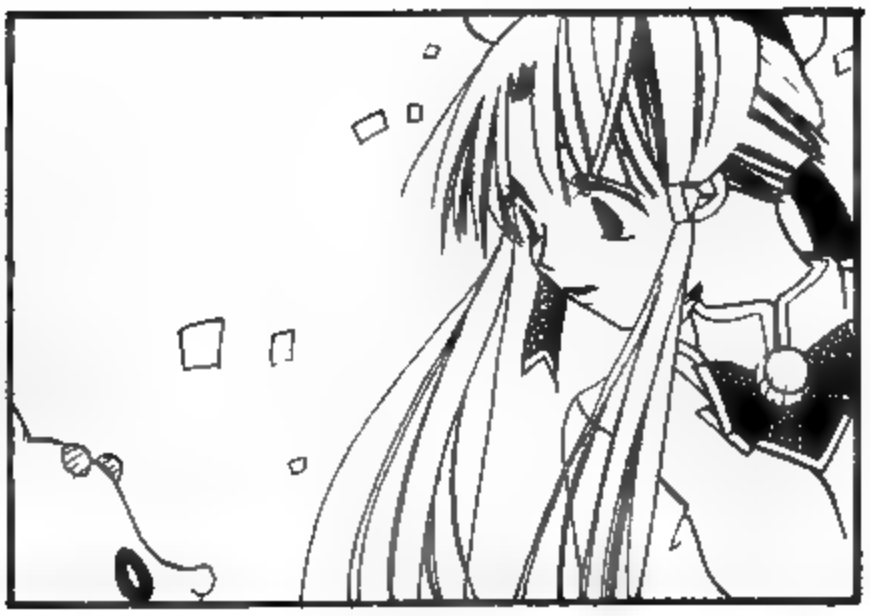
TUG

POP

SHIP

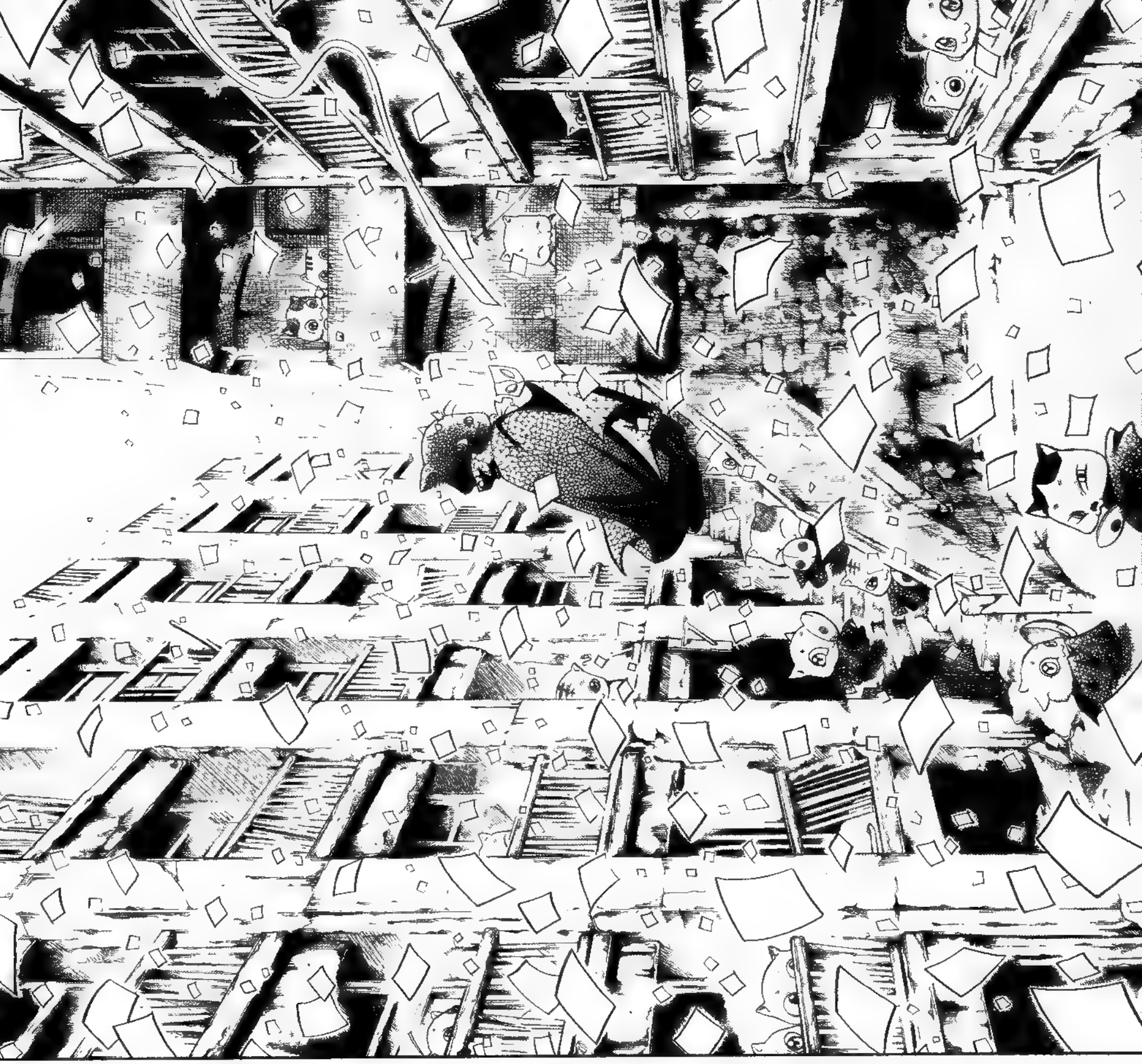
PUINYU!

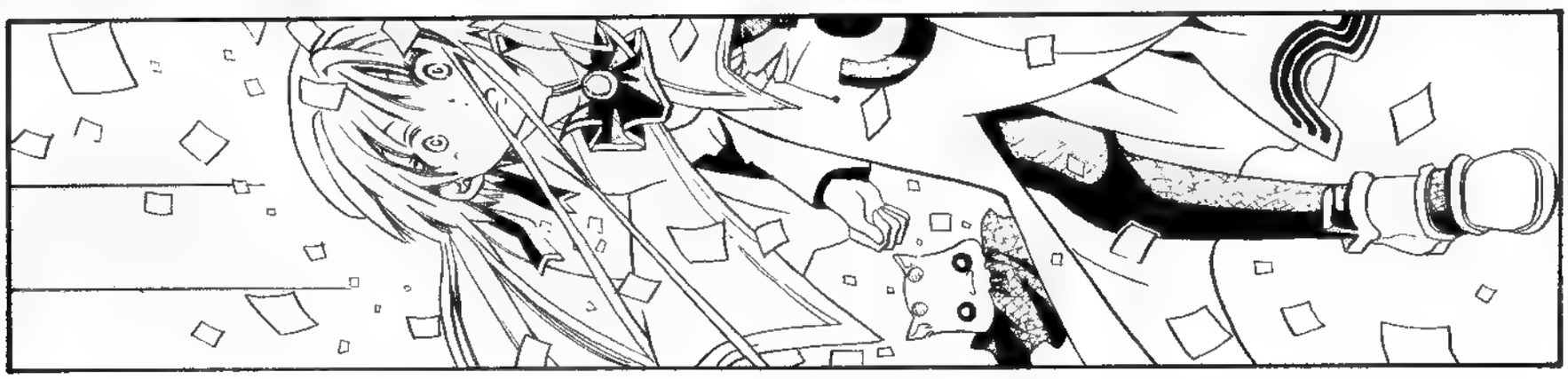
UH...



WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
WHY...
HUH?
PRESIDENT ARIA?!

WHOOOSH





THERE SHE IS!

はぁ DAZED

WHERE DID SHE GO?

CHATTER

CHATTER

MURMUR

MURMUR

OH!

AKARI!

AKARI?

OH, IT'S PRESIDENT ARIA!

HEY, IT'S AIKA AND MISS ALICIA!

GIVE ME A BREAK.

NYU.

YOU'RE BACK EARLY THIS YEAR.

WE'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU ALL OVER THE PLACE!

WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?

HUH?

IT SMELLS SO NICE.

HEY, WHAT'S THAT?

A JASMINE FLOWER.

SPEAKING OF CASANOVA,

THAT'S WHEN I LOST AKARI, TOO!

WE TRIED TO FOLLOW HIM EARLIER, BUT WE LOST HIM.

REALLY?

I DIDN'T KNOW THAT.

IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY, THE REAL CASANOVA USED JASMINE COLOGNE.

AS IF!

LET ME GUESS. YOU GOT THE JASMINE FLOWER FROM CASANOVA, RIGHT?

WOW!

SO YOU SAW HIM?

AS A MATTER OF FACT...

I SURE DID!

...

WELL, WELL. あら あら

DID YOU FIND OUT WHO HE IS?!

AND?

IS IT A GUY ON ANOTHER GUY'S SHOULDERS?

IS HE ON STILTS?

HE REALLY **WAS** AN IMMORTAL FAIRY?

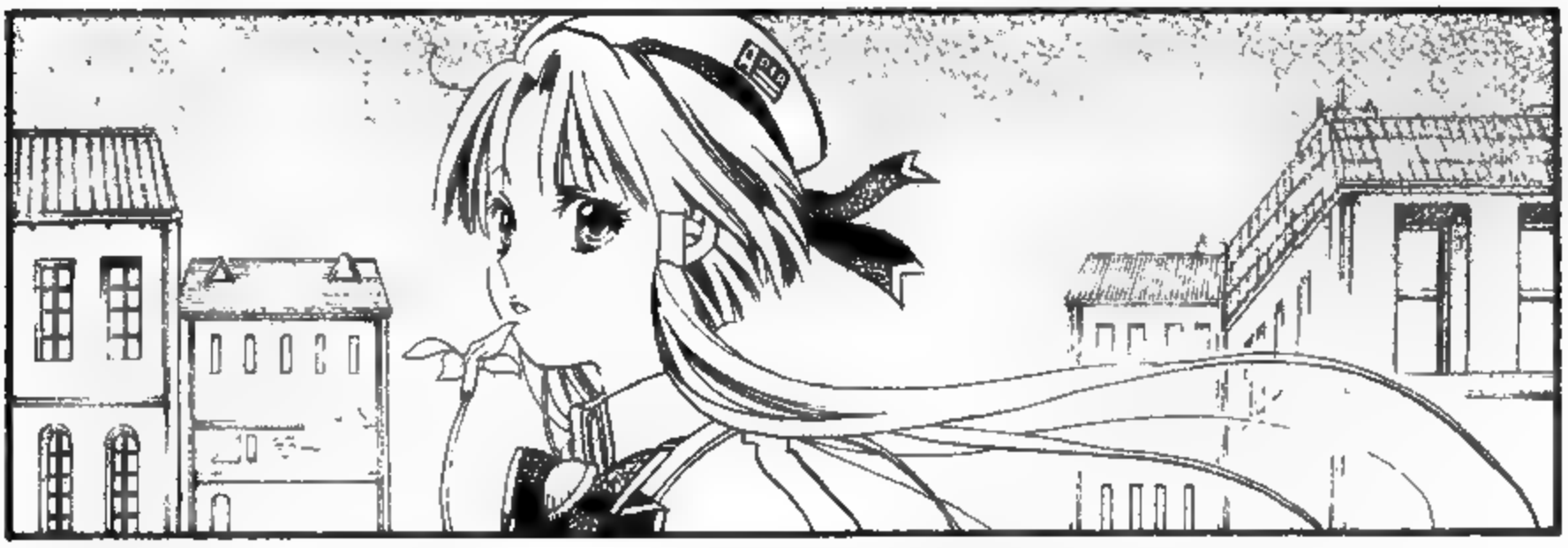
WAIT, DON'T TELL ME.

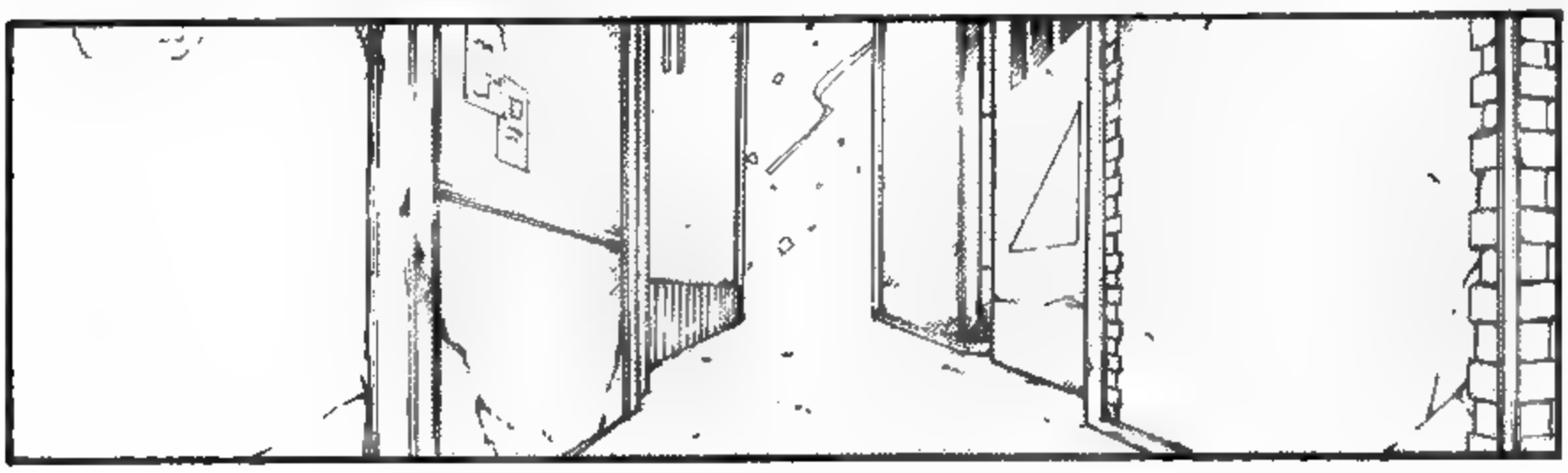
HUH?

YES. YES HE WAS.

WHO ENJOY CARNIVAL IN THIS TOWN.

C'MON, TELL US! DON'T BE STINGY!
AFTER ALL, WE HUMANS AREN'T THE ONLY ONES...





LED BY THE KING OF CATS, CAIT SITH.

A MYSTERIOUS MARCHING BAND...

I WONDER IF I'LL SEE HIM AT THE NEXT CARNIVAL...

ARIA 2 END

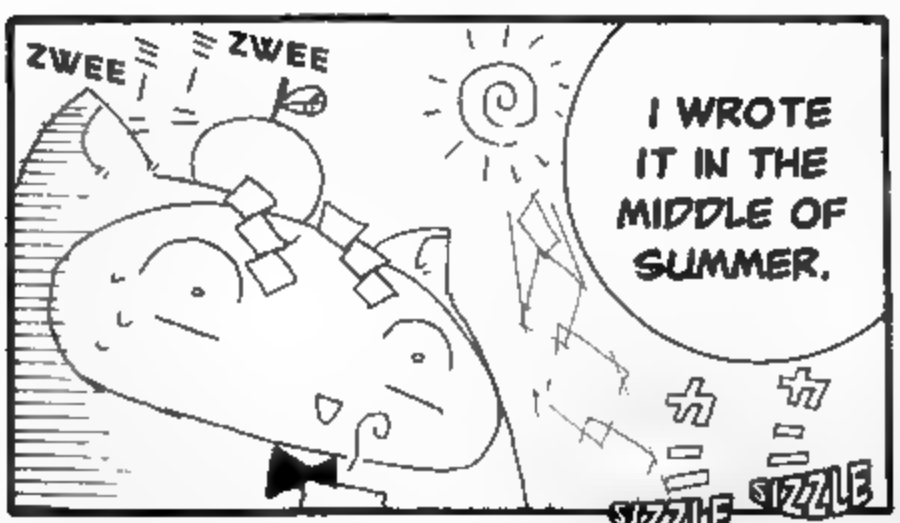
PUINYU!
YAAA!

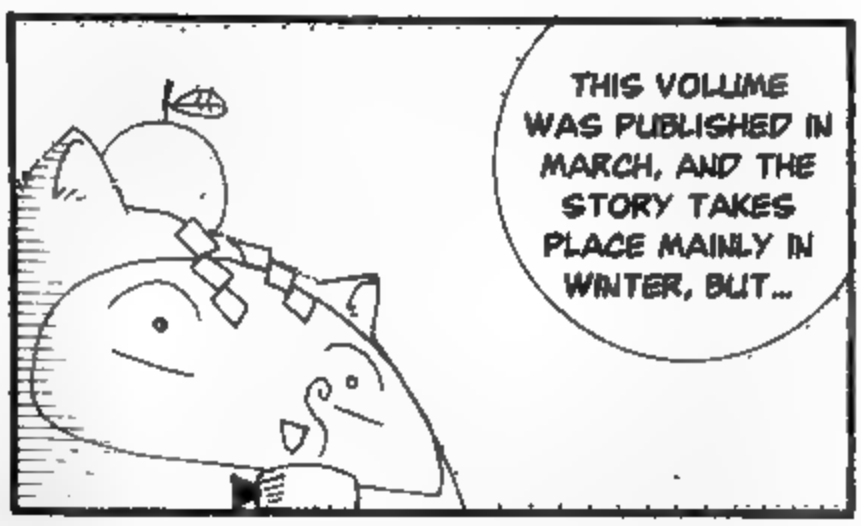
MONOGUSA CLUB

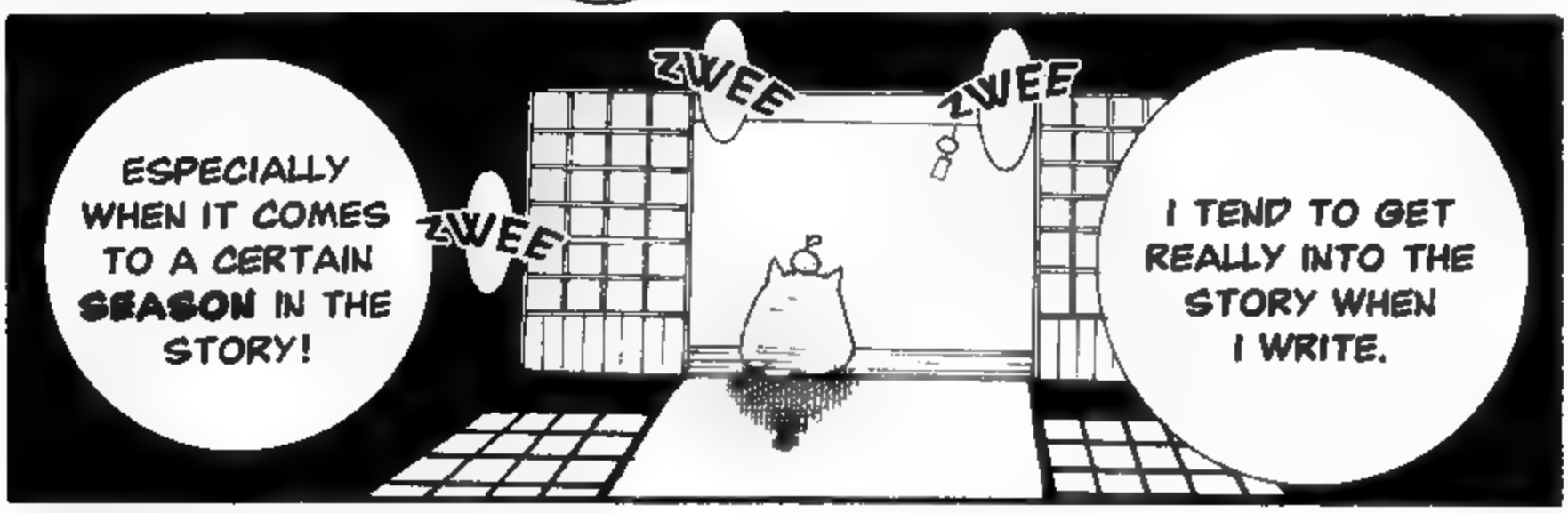
HELLO THERE! WELCOME TO *ARIA* VOLUME 2.

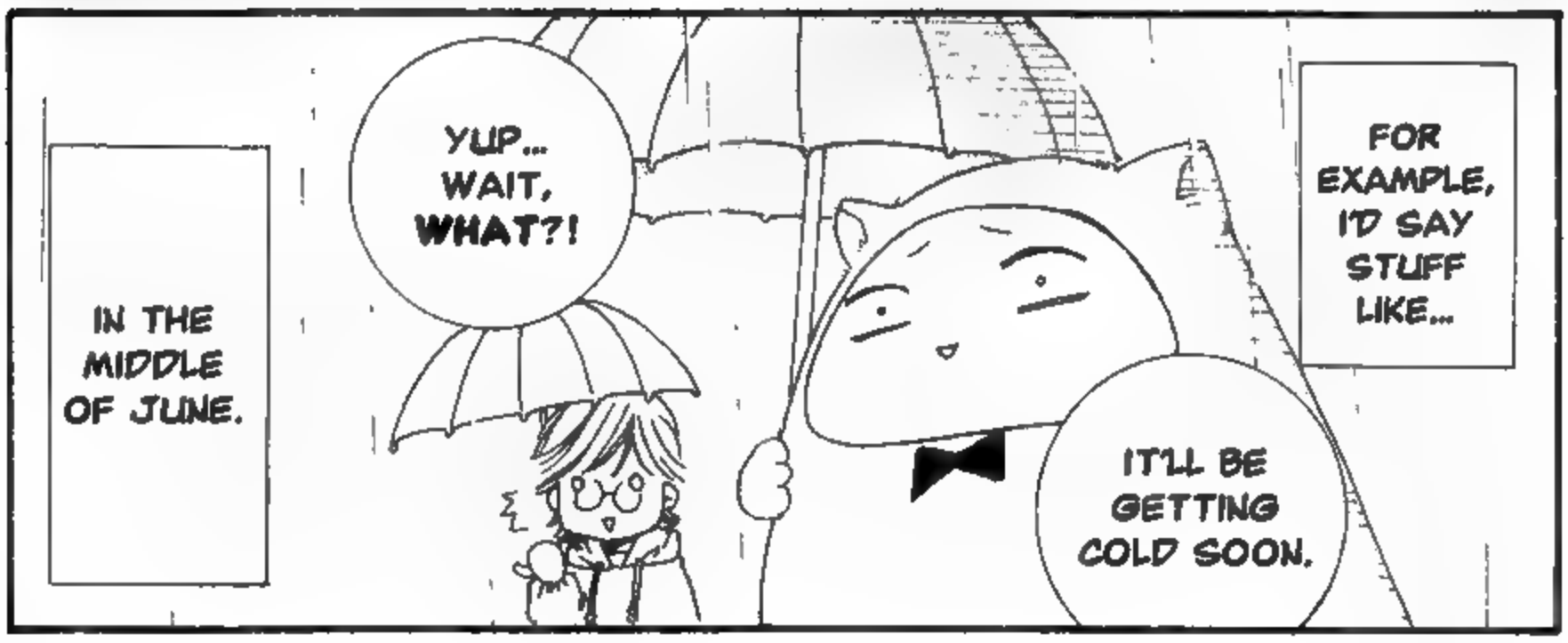
LONG TIME NO SEE!

KOZUE AMANO









ARE SLIGHTLY **OFF.**

BUT THE TIME OF YEAR I'M WRITING IT AND WHEN YOU GET TO **READ** IT...

EACH VOLUME IS SET IN A CERTAIN SEASON,

I'VE COME TO APPRECIATE BEING BORN IN JAPAN, WHERE THERE ARE FOUR DISTINCT SEASONS IN A YEAR.

I'VE BECOME MUCH MORE AWARE OF THE FOUR SINCE I BEGAN WRITING *ARIA*.

IF MY MANGA COULD GIVE YOU A SENSE OF THE DIFFERENT SEASONS THROUGHOUT THE STORY,

IT WOULD MAKE A **HALF-BAKED** PERSON LIKE ME VERY HAPPY AND GRATEFUL...

I'LL SEE YOU ALL AGAIN IN VOLUME 3, WHICH IS ABOUT **SPRING!**

WELL, DEAR READERS,

SEE YOU NEXT TIME!!

ARIA VOLUME TWO

©KOZUE AMANO 2003
All rights reserved.
First published in 2003 by MAG Garden Corporation.
English translation rights arranged with MAG Garden Corporation.

Translator	KAY BERTRAND
Lead Translator/Translation Supervisor	JAVIER LOPEZ
ADV Manga Translation Staff	AMY FORSYTH, BRENDAN FRAYNE, MADOKA MOROE, HAKURA KANEKO-SMITH and EIKO McGREGOR
Print Production/ Art Studio Manager	LISA PUCKETT
Art Production Manager	RYAN MASON
Sr. Designer/Creative Manager	JORGE ALVARADO
Graphic Designer/Group Leader	SHANNON RASBERRY
Graphic Designer	KRISTINA MILESKI
Graphic Artists	CHRIS LAPP, NANAKO TSUKIHASHI, NATALIA MORALES and CHY LING
International Coordinator	TORU IWAKAMI
International Coordinator	ATSUSHI KANBAYASHI
Publishing Editor	SUSAN ITIN
Assistant Editor	MARGARET SCHAROLD
Editorial Assistant	VARSHA BHUCHAR
Proofreaders	SHERIDAN JACOBS and STEVEN REED
Research/ Traffic Coordinator	MARSHA ARNOLD
Executive VP, CFO, COO	KEVIN CORCORAN
President, CEO & Publisher	JOHN LEDFORD

Email: editor@adv-manga.com
www.adv-manga.com
www.advfilms.com

For sales and distribution inquiries please call 1.800.282.7202

is a division of A.D. Vision, Inc.
10114 W. Sam Houston Parkway, Suite 200, Houston, Texas 77099
English text © 2004 published by A.D. Vision, Inc. under exclusive license.
ADV MANGA is a trademark of A.D. Vision, Inc.

All Rights Reserved. This is a fictional work. Any resemblance to actual events or locales, or persons, living or dead, is entirely coincidental. Reproduction and, or transmission of this work, in whole or in part, without written permission of the copyright holders is unlawful.

ISBN: 1-4139-0071-2
First printing, July 2004
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
Printed in Canada

Aria Vol. 02

PG. 02

Mr. Snowbug

The real name of this bug in Japanese is *todonone oowatamushi*, but it's commonly called *yukimushi*, which translates to "snow bug." It is a relative of the aphid.

PG. 27

Utopia

Tao hua yuan (the Chinese reading of this word) first appeared in the classic ***Tao Hua Yuan Ji***, written by Tao YuanMing (365-427). It means utopia—the peaceful world, which is separated from the secular world. Its Japanese reading is *togenkyo*, which was rendered as "Shangri-La" for the anime version of ***Satyuki***.

PG. 49

Dumbfounded

The actual "sound effect" for this is *pakupaku*, used to express the mouth repeatedly opening and closing.

PG. 85

Swirl Design

The swirly design to the left of the Gnome is the equivalent of a smiley face.

PG. 89

Postal Symbol

The symbol on the front of the desk and on the man's sleeve (which looks like a capital "T" with a line over it), is the Japanese postal symbol. It is actually a stylized katakana character *te*, the first character in *Teishin-sho* ("Ministry of Communications").

PG. 94

Mushroom Hotpot

In Japanese, *kinoko nabe*. The *nabe* here refers to a style of cooking in which the food (usually vegetables and meat) is cooked inside a heated pot right at the table. There are many regional and personal varieties, and they are especially popular in the cold winter months.

PG. 114

Soba

In Japan, it is a tradition to eat soba (buckwheat noodles) on New Year's eve. The particular type served on this occasion is called *toshikoshi* (lit. "year-crossing") soba, and it is eaten at midnight as a symbolic "bridging" of one year to the next. The length of the noodles also symbolizes longevity.

Continued

PG 120

(1) Temple bells

In Japan, at around midnight on New Year's day, temples ring their bells 108 times. This is supposed to free the faithful from the 108 "earthly desires" which are denounced in Buddhist belief.

(2) Kotatsu

A *kotatsu* is a small heated table used to keep warm during the cold weather months. Akari is shown seated at the *kotatsu* on p. 115.

PG 121

Coins and offering boxes

A Japanese tradition is for families and friends to visit a shrine and, at the stroke of midnight, toss a coin into the offering box. It is quite a sight to see people descend *en masse* at these shrines, congesting traffic for miles both with their arrival and departure.

PG 121

Oshiruko

Oshiruko is a traditional Japanese dish. Although there are different variations, it is basically red bean soup with white rice cake, served in a bowl. It is especially popular during the cold winter months.

PG 114

Bauta

The bauta is the traditional Venetian mask, and it is always white. It was originally not just a Carnival mask—it could also be used at any time of the year to conceal one's identity. Traditionally, there was a black veil or cloak and a black tricorn hat attached to it.

PG 194

(1) Food

The illustration in the first panel shows *kagami mochi*, which is traditionally prepared during the New Year's Holiday. It is made of sweet rice, steamed and pounded, and made into a circular shape. The top piece is smaller than the bottom piece. It is supposed to be a chair for the harvest god, who visits farmers at the beginning of each year to ensure a good harvest for the year. A small orange is placed on top of the *kagami mochi*. A large set is placed in the family altar, and smaller ones are placed in the kitchen, front entry, garage, etc.

(2) Noise

The noises in the background of the third panel are cicadas chirping. Also notice the wind chime hanging down—both of these are symbolic of summer.

PG 195

Cherry-blossom viewing

In the third panel, the author and Miss Alicia are shown cherry-blossom viewing. When the cherry blossoms bloom in spring, it is common for people in Japan to have picnics, look at the beautiful flowers, and drink (a lot) beneath the cherry trees.

Welcome to Spring

in Neo-Venezia!

ISBN 1-4139-0089-5, $9.99

A-R-I-A ③

Follow Akari and her friends as they uncover hidden treasures in ARIA vol. 3!

Be sure you start at the beginning!

ARIA vol. 1 AVAILABLE NOW!

ISBN 1-4139-0040-2, $9.99

ADV MANGA™

www.adv-manga.com

©KOZUE AMANO 2003